

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PERCIVAL, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. H. W. GREIG, CH.
SITKA, ALASKA
PENSIONS

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. C. WARREN GRIFFITHS, CH.
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER
BOX 1421
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
Nov. 1st 1935

AND STATED CLERK
Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

In your letter of Oct 21st you ask my opinion as to whether the Board ought to pay for the installation of a radio on the Princeton.

The bills you have listed are not all that will be or have been sent you in connection with the radio telephone. Mr. Swanson said at one time that in all the outfit would be about \$500. I have not been asked by Mr. Swanson to approve the installation. He has simply gone ahead on his own determination without consulting those responsible for oversight of the budget and Princeton.

I consider that the installation of a radio telephone is a matter of business for recommendations from at least the Committee and possibly of Presbytery.

If you do allow this large expenditure to pass without a severe investigation and inquiry, I fear that you are likely to have other matters started and perhaps changes made in the engine or hull of the boat without the Board being given an opportunity to have its Executive, meaning yourself, speak. The fact is that last summer a party told me that Mr. Swanson said to him that he wanted to change the lines of the boat. Mr. Swanson has not said anything to me about that point. He did talk of changing the rear hatch, and I told him that I thought he had better leave the present arrangement.

As I informed you before, Mr. Swanson told me ^{last summer} that he was going to get a radio telephone. I wrote him that if he considered the Board paying for it or using Board funds, the proper procedure would be a letter telling reasons for making the installation which I would be glad to forward to you with recommendations. I did not state then whether they would be positive or negative.

I cannot see any economy in the boat having the radio telephone for contacts with fields. Commercial stations of the U. S. Signal Corps give a much lower rate. There is but one real use and that is in case of distress. Yet, as far as I know, in the past ten years of operation of the Princeton there has been no such distress need.

Before you pay these bills or rather approve Mr. Swanson's action in having used Board funds for a radio telephone which he has partly installed, and at this date is not actually functioning, I would suggest that you ask him some questions, such as the following:

1. Who approved the installation of a radio telephone on the Princeton?
 2. Who authorized him to use Board money, funds earned by the Princeton?
 3. Why does he consider that the Board should approve the installation at such a high cost?
 4. Does he consider that he has done right in buying this equipment with Board funds without the Board's approval?
 5. Why did he not write a letter stating his reasons for desiring such equipment and ask the Presbytery or National Missions Committee to forward same with recommendations to the Board.
- Sincerely,

Russell F. Percival

Nov.
14th
1935

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. Swanson today. I presume he will be calling upon you to talk over the whole matter - at least I hope so. It seems to me that it would be best for you to advise him that if he wants a radio on the "Princeton" he should pay for it himself, because the present condition of the Board's finances makes it necessary for your Committee to withhold authorization of expenditures in the form of property repairs, etc. which should have immediate attention and which should receive preference to any such new equipment for the boat.

I will frankly say that you may put all the emphasis you desire into it because the Board simply will not spend any money on radio equipment for the Princeton at this time and it is our judgment that he should remit to the Board this amount of \$287.83 which he withheld out of the earnings of the boat to cover the partial cost of the radio equipment.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

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BOX 1421
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Nov 6th 1935

AND STATED CLERK

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for the several letters which came on the last boat. These days our mail comes once a week.

Mrs. H. W. Greig and her two S. J. S. girls were with us Monday and they were fine. Our people are so busy preparing for the Alaska Native Brotherhood Convention that it was difficult for her to secure a hearing. She had but six women present for the afternoon, but we had our two Week Day Bible classes united for stories told by the Eskimo girl, Anna Johnson; and later a sermonette by Mrs Greig. At 7:30 we had a popular meeting in which Mrs. Greig showed African movies and gave her heart's message. The two S. J. S. girls gave a strong appeal for support of National Missions. The girls were splendid illustrations of the ministry accomplished by Haines House and the Sheldon Jackson School. I believe that Mrs. Greig's tour will accomplish more than Mr. Swanson's working alone. The Presbyterial is paying all expenses for fuel and lubricating oils and food for their party: this covers all the extra expenses. At the same time they are assisting in raising benevolences which will be sent to the Board as from the Churches, not from the Women's Societies.

You ask about the "A. L. Lindsley." Rev. E. E. Bromley does need the "A. L. Lindsley" during the summer months for cannery and camp visitation, those months would include part of May to October first. During the winter he can very well get along without a boat. In fact he is relieved of the labor of taking care of the boat during the months the Hoonah harbor freezes by our taking the boat south as we have done. We believed that the best use of the "A. L. Lindsley" for this winter was on the West Coast between Klawock and Craig. During these winter months the new missionary can look around and determine what he would like to purchase as a boat for his own property and use. He will have plenty to learn. The Committee plans to place the "A. L. Lindsley" back at Hoonah following the April meeting of Presbytery. There is no reason why the "A. L. Lindsley" should not be used between Klawock and Craig from now until time for Presbytery. Mr. Bromley has no camp and cannery work during the winter months.

Thank you for the word concerning Mr. Christiansen. You will find enclosed carbon copy of my letter written today to Rev. Donald G. Christiansen. You are the one who has had the opportunity to investigate him. Of course all we know is by letter from him other than your investigations.

Rev. George J. Beck is moving out of the manse December first and Rev. Verne J. Swanson is tying up the Princeton and moving into the Ketchikan manse that date. He has been instructed to serve the Ketchikan field until the new missionary you are appointing has arrived. This leaves the field clear for the new missionary to come as early as you can arrange. My judgment is that for the new missionary to arrive in Ketchikan by January 15th is a satisfactory arrangement.

Sincerely, *Russell F. Pederson*

*Copy to
Dr. Somerndike*

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
November 6th 1935

Rev. Donald G. Christiansen
Howard, Kansas

Dear Mr. Christiansen:

Dr. J. M. Somerndike writes that he has had a conference with you and that he believes that you can come to Alaska to take up missionary service at Ketchikan by January 15th. I know that Rev. George J. Beck, the present missionary, is eagerly anticipating the earliest possible arrival of his successor.

When you arrive in Ketchikan you will be surprised. You are being given your opportunity in the first port in Alaska, a truly modern and modernized community. Ketchikan is the greatest opportunity Alaska has to offer. The man and wife who come to Ketchikan will have to receive liberal wisdom and strength from God. They will need every spiritual grace for Ketchikan not only offers wonderful opportunities, but along with each opportunity you will find perplexing questions as to just the best way to serve for the Glory of Jesus Christ.

This morning I must ask a question or two. We are certain that you and your fiance are O. K. because Dr. Somerndike has looked you up. A Church of another denomination has recently brought in a new missionary. The liquor stores are heartily back of him and other worldly influences, and they say that he is a "modern preacher." Many of the Christian people are anxious as to his influence for they are fearful that he may not be a Christian.

You stated that you yourself are not using tobacco in any form. A woman in Ketchikan who is vitally interested in our Church asked me to ascertain whether your fiance smokes or has any sympathy with smoking. She says that many social workers in the East do, and she is fearful of the influence; and insisted that it would be better to find out definitely about this before you came north. She really has a right to ask this question. If you would have your fiance write me along the line of social attitudes, it would help a great deal in preparing the ground. This woman states that the minister's wife is more important than the minister, and I wonder whether she hasn't come close to the truth.

You will want to know about the manse and furnishings. The manse is most conveniently located for the service which should be accomplished in Ketchikan. The manse is upstairs over the church, heated economically with the same oil burning furnace, steam system. There are six rooms and bath besides a large unfinished room which is excellent for a work shop and place to store things and dry clothes. There is an electric range in the church kitchen downstairs and an electric range in the manse kitchen upstairs. Both kitchen and bath rooms are provided with linoleum. Kitchen has built in fixtures and the living room has book cases for a good sized library. Dining room has a nice dining table and six chairs. Mr. Beck had provided his own davenport so you will not find one in the furnishings. There is a good rocker and arm chair. You will find a good double bed, spring, mattress, dresser and chiffonier. You can make a good start with these furnishings.

You will find that Ketchikan stores can sell you anything you need, and they will do the right thing by you. You will want to buy in Ketchikan as far as possible.

If you do not have a radio, I would suggest that you wait with your purchase until you reach Ketchikan. Then you can see just what is likely to be suitable and of best use in Alaska. I purchased our radio from the Service Electric Company in Ketchikan and we like it very much. Ketchikan has electric power at low rates and you will wish to use many electric conveniences.

If you have an automobile, you will find that there is the finest opportunity to enjoy it the year around. Ketchikan has good roads. Furthermore there will be times when you might enjoy using the car rather than walking to the mission at Saxman which is an Indian mission adjoining Ketchikan. If you do not have a light car, it is likely that you can buy one second hand at a reasonable price in Ketchikan. I bought one in Wrangell for about the same price as I would have had to pay outside, and saved the freight. My advice is to NOT bring a heavy car to Alaska. The light cars are more serviceable and cost so much less in upkeep. Our few miles of travel do not require speed. In and around Ketchikan you will find not more than 50 miles of auto road. Freight on cars is very high.

The three larger steamship companies having boats between Seattle ~~xxx~~ and Ketchikan are as follows:

Alaska Steamship Company, steamers are supposed to sail January 4, 11, 18. Lately they have been sailing 3 or 4 days behind schedule.

Northland Steamship Company, steamers sail Monday evenings.

Canadian Pacific Steamship Company, steamers January 10th and January 24th. The Canadian Pacific Steamship Company is the only line allowing a clergy rate to Alaska ports. Their boats are first class.

Your freight should be shipped via either the Northland or Alaska Steamship. The Canadian boat carries no freight from Seattle to Alaska ports.

Any other questions will be cheerfully answered as far as possible.

I wish that I could have a visit with you back in Kansas so that we could know one another. It would be much more satisfactory to answer your questions in conversation, and it would be easier to put the many questions the people up here ask. Well, we expect that soon you will be in Alaska, and then we'll get acquainted.

I will be looking for a letter from you, and hope that you keep me informed as to your plans in connection with Alaska

Sincerely,

June
15th
1938

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am enclosing herewith a page from THE STAR WEEKLY of Toronto, which describes the very romantic missionary enterprise that is being carried on by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada. It appealed to me very strongly as a type of work that might well be introduced into our program of Presbyterian missions in southeastern Alaska. Of course, we have the Princeton, and I realize that it is used occasionally to carry sick people to the hospital and for other types of work similar to what is described in this article; but it has always seemed to me that the Princeton is kept so busy on other errands that it does not seem possible to use it specifically for a program of human welfare and evangelism such as is visualized in the activity of the United Church Marine Missions on the British Columbia coast. If there is need in that area, it seems to me that there is still more need among the natives in southeastern Alaska.

Since I have been obliged to abandon my hope of using the Princeton primarily for this type of work, much as I would like to see it done, I have had it in mind to give Walter Soboleff an appointment to do this very kind of work when he graduates from Dubuque next spring. The girl he is going to marry is a trained nurse; and if we could appoint them as itinerant missionaries, equip them with a boat not nearly so large or pretentious as the Princeton, I believe they would be able to carry out the plan which I have longed to inaugurate in our work in southeastern Alaska but for which the way has not seemed to be clear since I found that the Princeton either was not available or not adaptable to this type of ministry.

My purpose in sending this article to you is, first of all, to sow the idea of inaugurating work of this kind in the minds of the members of Alaska Presbytery; and, second, to secure the reaction of each of you to the plan which I have in mind, to appoint Walter Soboleff as an itinerant evangelist, equipped with a boat, and with his wife as a nurse to carry on a purely evangelistic work among the natives in the little villages and canneries, whom we do not reach in the program of the Princeton and among whom it is not necessary or advisable to establish churches or to erect church buildings. What we want above all things is to take Christ into the hearts and lives of individual natives, and I shall never feel that our program of Alaska missions is thoroughly efficient until we have a missionary who is reaching the scattered, isolated, and unevangelized portion of the native population who are living in the small villages all along the southeastern Alaska coast.

I am taking you into my confidence in this matter, and I hope you will write me frankly giving me your reaction to these plans which I have in mind and which I have discussed with Walter Soboleff with his hearty approval, and which have been brought to a focus by the reading of this article concerning the Marine Missions of the United Church, of whose ministry I was not aware until this paper came into my hands.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

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WRANGELL, ALASKA

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WRANGELL, ALASKA

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REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, CH.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

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SITKA, ALASKA

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
June 15th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Presbytery elected me the delegate to the meeting of Synod at Tacoma, Washington. I am planning on leaving for the meeting of Synod about five days early, and in that five days making a trip to Spokane.

I noted that you arranged for a pass for Mr. Waggoner for a southern run after the meeting of Synod.

It came to my mind that perhaps you would like to arrange for a pass for me from Seattle to Spokane and return. I have my clergy rate certificate to use in case I do not get a pass. If it is convenient to secure a pass for me, it will save me just that much cash. I must make the run to Spokane. My plans are to go to Spokane the night of June 30th and return from Spokane the night of July 4th. The pass could be mailed to Dr. James Thomson, Seattle.

Any National Missions correspondence you wish to have with me during that interval could be mailed in care of Dr. James Thomson.

Have thought also about the Craig-Klawock field. I have heard nothing more from Mr. Kaiper as to his plans. But if you should care to have me interview anybody concerning that field, it might be to advantage to do so while outside. I would like to help to find a missionary couple which will make good and remain on that field long enough to make good with the people and build up the enterprise.

Having just reached home following the Juneau trip, I am finding lots to do. We are having reception of new members and the Communion service the 19th.

Every part of our work appears more encouraging than ever before. The Missionary Society met last night and 16 of the best women of the native group were present and taking an active part. The Ladies Aid which is our white women's society is taking a fine part. We hope that our new contacts among the whites will be of persuasive power to bring more whites into active participation.

We are having to delay our Vacation Bible School. A scarlet fever epidemic has started, and parents are trying to isolate their youngsters. We have our supplies and plans for the school later in the summer.

Children's Day is being observed the 19th.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
June 15th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

The National Missions Committee is not certain as to whether a fourth layworker was on the budget for the ~~coming~~ present year. We have an understanding that the budget was to include a fourth layworker, Samuel G. Johnson; but that he did not accept appointment.

Mr. Johnson would like to have a field this coming year. Will it meet with your approval to renew his appointment and send him to a field in October 1938?

The layworkers are finding it almost impossible to get along on the \$50 from the Board and \$5 or \$10 from the field. They are asking for an increase in salary from the Board.

Some have asked whether you would approve their taking employment such as the C.C. or other work to supplement their income from the Board and local Church.

The Committee believes that we must approve their doing some work to supplement the salary, but we recognize the danger of the working at another job.

Gibson Young and Andrew Wanamaker are reported as being in debt. We fear that their unpaid store bills may bring strong reactions toward our mission work. It is hard to get by on a small income.

Wish you would write me the policy we should follow as the layworkers request permission to supplement their income by accepting employment.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
June 15th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Mrs. Harry Willard, widow of the late Layworker Harry Willard who was killed at Klukwan, requested that the National Missions Committee meet her while we were in Juneau.

We as a group went to the home of Mrs. Willard and expressed our sympathy and desire to encourage her.

Mrs. Willard claims that the last check which they received came in October 1937, that is a check for the grant which you arranged for Mr. Willard. She claims that that check covered the months of July, August and September, 1937, and was for \$62.50.

Mr. Willard was killed the last part of December. Therefore she believes that she should have the payments for October, November and December: another \$62.50. She considers that this amount is due her.

Mrs. Willard expresses herself as very sorry that Mr. Willard did not enter the pension plan in 1927 as he was invited to do. We have explained to her that she is not entitled to a pension as we understand her case.

The National Missions Committee members wish there were some way to secure a small amount per month for this fine woman who is not able to do much for herself. She is 66 years of age, and has gotten around very well for her age. She again and again reviews her story of how Mr. Willard told her to stand by the church even while he was drawing near the end. We urged her to make application for Social Security Pension assistance, but it may be some time before that can be secured. She states that she would rather have National Missions Christian help in smaller amount than the Social Security pension.

I imagine you know all about her case so will not write more.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson
Russell F. Pederson

*Pa. for
Oct-Nov +
Dec. -
Also Emmer.
check 75.00*

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
June 17th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

This morning I had conversation with Brigadier Carruthers, the executive officer of the Salvation Army who had just returned from Klawock. Mr. Carruthers had been out to Klawock to conduct the funeral service for Captain William Benson, the native officer who had been the leader of the Klawock Corps for years.

Mr. Carruthers told me several things about Mr. Kaiper. He said that Mr. Kaiper told him that he is leaving Alaska in about two weeks, that the powers that be seemed to want him out. Mr. Carruthers commented that they often had people in the Army which are as good as gold, but that lack good common sense and judgment; and that he judged that is the trouble with Mr. Kaiper. He said that he seemed to lack steadiness.

I thought you might be interested in the comment of the leader of another denomination who had had several contacts on the field. Mr. Carruthers said that Mr. Kaiper told him that there were other complications than the seasickness which caused him to turn back instead of continuing on to the Y. P. Conference. Mr. Kaiper has not written me. Mr. Swogger said that Mr. Kaiper told him in Ketchikan that he intended leaving the last of the month.

Mr. Carruthers said that while he was walking up the street with Mr. Kaiper last Tuesday that Mr. Kaiper told him that each time he saw Mr. Swanson he felt like he would like to get out his gun, and then added that it must be the devil in him which made him feel that way. I had heard before that Mr. Kaiper wrote Mr. Swanson that he was willing to meet him in jungle fashion. I have no idea what caused such feelings.

The Salvation Army expects to place an experienced younger officer from the outside in Klawock. Mr. Carruthers thinks their native officers are too old to do good work. Mr. Carruthers stated that the Government nurse which had been in Klawock was a zealous devout Roman Catholic and had lined up many Klawock people with the Roman Catholic Church, and the priest is coming to hold services.

The National Missions Committee has no one to recommend for the Klawock-Craig field. We hope that a first class missionary and wife may be secured soon so that there may be little time between the departure of Kaipers and the coming of the new workers.

If you have some folks in mind, I wonder whether I could get to meet them while I am out to Synod. The field is so important that it seems to me that anything I can do to assist you in selecting the workers, should be done. You can reach me at Dr. Thomson's office in Seattle between June 30th and July 8th.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell
June 18th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Enclosed you will find salary voucher which Mr. Swanson handed me this morning for part month salary for Joe Ramquist. Mr. Ramquist is Mrs. Swanson's brother.

This morning I had a conference with Mr. Swanson on the three subjects: Safety, Appearance, and Work of the Princeton. Mr. Swanson agreed to do what the committee insists be done as to insurance of safety, that is to take the Princeton to Juneau a day early when he meets Dr. McLeod and have the Steamboat Inspection Service inspect the Princeton as though she were a common carrier. As a Committee we feel that this is necessary to meet the comments and criticism recently presented. Have told Mr. Swanson that he must put on another life ring and have lines attached to each.

The weather has been a difficult problem for outside painting, but the inside cleaning and painting can be done. He said he did not have time to do it all. I told him to hire a man for a couple of days to get the inside of the boat presentable, and I added that the Committee insists that the Princeton carry and display a Christian flag and American flag particularly when coming to a port or harbor. This Christian identification is worth our insistence.

The National Missions Committee unanimously agreed that the time for the Princeton operator to take vacation is in the winter rather than the summer time. Mr. Swanson for a long time has maintained that there is little to be accomplished during the height of the salmon canning season. The Committee members maintain that there is ^{much} and that Mr. Bromley and others have demonstrated that evangelistic, pastoral and V B S work is possible and valuable, that is with boat work.

Mr. Swanson would not commit himself as to whether he intends to use his summer vacation as a time to go seining and earn extra money. I told him that I do not know whether the Board of National Missions makes any stipulation as to whether the missionaries may use their month vacation to earn extra income. He seems to think that he is entitled to use that month to go seining. I know of no other missionary who does that.

It is difficult to demand that Mr. Swanson take his vacation in the winter and expect him to make the fullest use of the summer unless he has a vision and joy in doing missionary work. He went seining last year. I do not know how much he earned. I do know that members of Presbytery felt that it was not right for different reasons.

Does the Board have any ruling as to using month's vacation in an earning capacity?

June 18/38

Under date of June 3rd you requested me to confer with Mr. Andrew Wanamaker as to his inquiry about his "last half month pay." I read your statement to Mr. Wanamaker and then asked him when he began work at Angoon. He said that he began with October 15th, and thought he had been paid for but half of October. After rereading your statement that he had been paid for the seven months from Oct 1st/37 to Apr 30/38, he said that your records must be correct. He seemed satisfied that he had received his seven months salary.

Mr. Swanson had the Wanamaker family on board the Princeton taking them to Klawock where Mr. Wanamaker will join a fishing crew for the season. Mr. Wanamaker told me that he is returning to Angoon for the winter whether or not he is appointed as layworker. There had been some objection to his serving that field, but he claims the Angoon church session is in favor of him serving the church. I informed him that we would let him know later as to where we think he should be.

Have received no word from Mr. Kaiper direct, but Mr. Swanson told me that Mr. Kaiper said they are sailing from Klawock on the S.S. Lakina about June 26th.

Wrangell is receiving her quota of religious workers. The steamer last week brought two more Pentacostal workers, and we understand that two of those here now are going out next week to conduct an evangelistic tour--I expect it is a money raising tour. This week a man & wife who title themselves as Bible Teachers representing the 7th Day Adventists came to town. They are not seeking work, but are in town as workers on full time pay by the Adventist Missionary Board.

The Alaska Evangelization Society has started their campaign over the Ketchikan broadcasting station with Monday afternoon broadcasts entitled "Gold Nuggets from the Bible." They are advertizing in the papers.

Mrs. Pederson will see that our church is open with all the services being maintained. Professor A. Rasmussen is giving the morning message one of the Sundays while I am away to Synod.

Last Sunday I could not help feeling downhearted that the Northern Light Presbyterian Church was having no service of worship this month. They had a small Sunday School and that was all. The Luthern Church has a fine pastor in Juneau. He preached the funeral sermon for a prominent business man of Juneau, member of the Northern Light Church, last week. Folks told me that he gave a strong helpful message. With a popular Methodist pastor active in Rotarian work and this new powerful Lutheran pastor Mr. Glasse is going to have keen competition.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

June 21st, 1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson: ~~Dear Mr. Pederson:~~

I have yours of June 15th, and in reply to your request I have asked our Transportation Bureau to make an effort to secure a pass for you from Seattle to Spokane and return. I hope it can be done. If so, the pass will be mailed in care of Dr. Thomson's office in Seattle.

I shall be glad if you can find a good man to take the Craig and Klawock field. ~~Thank you very much for your letter.~~

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

June 23rd, 1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have yours of June 17th with reference to the situation at Klawock; also your letter of June 15th in which you inquire with reference to the number of native workers provided for in our present budget and in the budget for the next budget year beginning October 1st.

I find that we have made provision in our budget for the new year beginning October 1st for a native worker either at Craig or Klawock for eight months at \$50 a month; also for native workers at Angoon, Kake, and Hydaburg. The term of service at Angoon and Hydaburg is eight months each and at Kake the term is seven months.

It occurs to me that if Sam Johnson is qualified to do good work, and if your committee feels that he can handle the situation at Klawock, you might recommend that we appoint him to that field for eight months during the next budget year. Then we could appoint the white worker to take the field at Craig and to have supervision over Klawock, giving them services occasionally during the four months when the native is not on the field. You will remember that Mr. Kaiper was very optimistic about Craig and felt that if a white missionary could give his entire time to that field he could develop a strong work there, stating that there were local resources that could be secured toward the salary of

the missionary. I have a man in view, either to take both Craig and Klawock, or to take Craig alone, in case you decide to recommend Sam Johnson for Klawock. Please advise me at your earliest convenience so that I can follow up this matter and get a man on the field as soon as convenient.

Mrs. Willard must have a bad memory. We paid her \$25 a month each month up to and including the month of December. After Mr. Willard died we sent her a check for \$75 in one sum, covering what would have been the salary for January, February, and March of 1938, thinking that she might need this money in connection with his funeral expenses or until she could make the necessary adjustments for her future.

I am sorry to say that there is no way by which we can grant Mrs. Willard any pension. She was not formally commissioned by the Board, and the whole circumstance was an expedient, as you know, to which I agreed rather reluctantly out of sympathy for Mr. Willard and in consideration of his long service; but as in all cases where one stretches the rules out of sympathy or consideration, the only reward is dissatisfaction on the part of the recipient of the favor, plus more demands.

I do not want you to think that I do not sympathize with Mrs. Willard's situation. I do, and I heartily wish there were some way by which she could secure a larger amount from the Pension Board, but you realize, I am sure, that I have no authority to requisition any of the funds of the Board of National Missions for pension purposes. I feel that our Board has been more than generous and that nothing further is required of us.

With reference to increasing the salary of the lay workers, I was approached by Gibson Young at the meeting of the General Assembly regarding this matter, who told me in his characteristic and emphatic way how necessary it was for the native workers to have a larger salary. I called his attention to the fact that they had been increased during the past year from \$30 a month to \$50 a month and that this was a much larger proportionate increase than anybody had received in any phase of our Board's work during these years. I sympathize with the desire to increase the amount they receive from the Board, and if it is at all possible I will raise it to \$60 a month beginning October 1st, but I am not sure that the budget for the new year will be sufficient to permit me to do so. Be assured that I am interested and that the matter will receive very earnest consideration.

Faithfully yours,

June 29, 1938.

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Your letter of June 18th has been received during Dr. Somerndike's absence on a field trip from which he will return about July 5th. At that time your letter will receive his attention, and you will undoubtedly hear from him.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. Somerndike

HEW

July
5th
1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter of June 18th. I heartily agree with your idea that the best use that can be made of the Princeton is in the summer season; and it was my original idea, as you know, when the Alaska work was turned over to my administrative supervision, that the Princeton should be used during the summer to visit the canning villages and settlements and to carry on a vigorous evangelistic campaign, with Bible school work for the children during the day. I think that we should instruct Mr. Swanson very definitely that he is to take his vacation during the winter and that he is to use the Princeton during the summer according to this plan. Since you may feel some reluctance about instructing Mr. Swanson in this matter, I am writing to him today, as you will see by the enclosed copy.

Certainly we do not approve of our missionaries devoting their vacation season to some other kind of work. We do not have any rule against it, but it is seldom done because I am glad to say that most of our missionaries are so devoted to their work that they do not feel like doing this.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
July 5th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for securing the pass for me from Seattle ~~and~~ to Spokane and return. It came too late for me to use so I am returning it to Dr. Pressly.

Received your letter of June 23rd relative to the Craig-Klawock fields.

The Klawock field does not wish a layworker. It appears to me that it would not be wise for us to insist that they accept any of our layworkers.

Our recommendation is that you secure a first class man and wife, ordained minister with some experience, to serve both Craig and Klawock with the use of the boat, "A.L. Lindsley," to the best of their ability. They should be given to understand that the field does tax the physical strength and that they must be people of tact as well as full of spiritual conviction. They should be real balanced sound Presbyterians.

Before you finally appoint them to the field I think that you could well give us quite complete information as to their experience and qualifications. Their own statement as to vision of missionary service may not only help us to be certain that they will fit, but may assist us in serving them after they are appointed.

Mr. Kaiper has left Alaska. I did not get to see him, but I have had many reports about him. If there is any foundation to these reports which have come from different reliable sources, it is for the best interest of Alaska work that he withdrew. I will not go into the detail of the reports unless you request them. It has been suggested that I should write you to warn you against giving him another appointment to any field if such is contemplated.

I believe that any new man going to the Craig-Klawock field should give a thorough study as to resources before taking up the subject of establishing any arrangement as Kaiper suggested. Perhaps all of us who are on the National Missions Committee fail to see resources Kaiper did, but I think that the real reason Kaiper decided to withdraw is that he realized he had made an unworkable proposition.

Mr. Swanson wrote me that he is doing those things which I insisted must be accomplished for the safety and appearance of the Princeton before Dr. McLeod arrived to join him for the tour of fields.

Am working on the Juneau First Church structure and will hasten back to Alaska immediately following Synod.

Sincerely, Russell F. Pederson

Saw Mr. Waggoner and he said the architect is out of town and we can hardly make more advance till the 21st.

July 8th, 1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am enclosing a copy of a telegram I have sent to Mr. Swanson today.

It seems that the reactions of the missionaries in Alaska to my recent letter regarding the possibilities of "marine missions" have quite coincided with what has been going on in my own mind ever since I was given the administrative supervision of the Alaska work. So far as the "Princeton" is concerned, I feel that more would be gained if we would employ a man as a navigator for the "Princeton," and place a real missionary on the boat who would have a zeal for evangelistic work among the neglected and isolated villages which are not reached by any church or missionary. What would it cost to employ a reliable man to operate the "Princeton"? Of course we would want a good Christian man, but he need not be a preacher. He would be under the direction of the minister-missionary who uses the boat to take him wherever he wanted to go, and it would be his purpose to keep the "Princeton" in constant use for such work.

In the second place, I would like to inquire whether your presbytery would be willing to ordain Walter Soboleff when he returns from Dubuque next summer on the basis of the education which he has received, so that he could marry, baptize, administer the Sacraments, and perform all the functions of an ordained minister. If so, I would favor putting Walter on the boat with his wife, and engaging a navigator to take charge of the mechanical work of operating the boat.

When Mr. Waggoner reaches retirement age, I would then favor transferring Walter to the native church in Juneau. I would like you to frankly give me your reaction to these plans. Mr. Swanson would then be free to accept a call to some church

in the States or to engage in the fishing industry.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

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Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
July 8th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Just arrived in Seattle on way from Synod. Am leaving for Wrangell on the steamer sailing tonight. Two letters had been forwarded here for me.

Rev. Ralph K. Wheeler writes that he has a missionary in mind whom he believes would be fine for Klawock-Craig. He has written: "Reverend and Mrs. ~~XXX~~ Gordon MacInnes of White Deer, Texas, would be excellent for the Klawock-Craig Field and might accept it. Dr. J. M. Somerndike knows them. She is from Prince Edward Island, he from Halifax, N.S. Both are consecrated, he is a fair speaker, good mechanic, liked by children, has horse sense."

Mr. Wheeler knows a little about the Craig-Klawock field since he attended the meeting of Presbytery at Klawock a few years ago. I thought you might like his suggestion. The National Missions Committee would like to know more about them in case you consider them candidates.

I believe that I should visit both Craig and Klawock as early as possible, and help them to grasp the real significance of having a missionary. The fields are upset and they need some sympathetic attention. It is on my heart to go to the fields and spend at least a day and night at each town. Since Mr. Swanson has planned on taking his vacation beginning the 15th on which date he lands Dr. McLeod in Ketchikan, I do not know what transportation I can get to Craig and Klawock. If Mr. Swanson were not taking vacation at this time, I would like to have him come to Wrangell the morning of the 18th and take me to those fields on the Princeton. I wonder whether I should try to get out there some other way. Do you think that I should go to those fields before the new missionary is appointed? One of my ideas is that the people of those fields may take more kindly to the thought of doing something toward the support of the missionary providing they are consulted as to the kind of a missionary they would like to see appointed. It may be that the appointment is well under way, but the people might feel that they had a part in the choice.

Mr. Swanson wrote me under date of July 4th: "Re. time of vacation-- I feel the same but if next spring Presbytery will go on record as favoring the winter vacation for the Princeton worker I will accede- if I am not dropped before that."

Mr. Swanson writes that he has talked with practically every Hydaburg church officer and they are unanimous in asking for a change of leadership. Just now I do not know what to recommend, but it appears that we'll have to make a change. It is not getting easier to locate these native leaders. Mr. Swanson adds: "James Edenso, one of the Hydaburg elders, pleads for some sort of Board assistance for Sam David in the event he should be allowed to serve Hydaburg. Davis is willing to serve on lay-worker salary & probably would be willing to serve even for less. I explained that as far as I knew it was impossible for the Board to salary a 72 year old missionary. I also told him I believed it would be no use to ask for a raise in his pension. He wants Waggoner contacted on that point."

Sincerely, *Russell F. Pederson*

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Box 275
Wrangell
July 12th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letter of June 15th enclosing the STAR WEEKLY page on Canadian Marine Missions reached me a short time before I started for Tacoma to the meeting of Synod. I have taken time to consider carefully your letter.

On the steamer southbound I had the good fortune to meet the Convenor of National Missions who has direct charge of the Marine Missions of the United Church of Canada. He told me much more about their work than was on the page from the STAR WEEKLY. They are having their problems. He stated that they have a new boat which is a bit too large from the standpoint of maintenance and operation and that their other boats are too small. They expect to use larger boats when they can make the change. Their Indian boat operator does lots of running around but they have difficulty in getting reports. He said that he had held up that particular skipper's salary for three months to compel him to make a report. They have been allowing the crews board and room in addition to the regular salary, but they are changing the plan and requiring the crew to provide their own food and maintenance.

The M/s Princeton should and could be doing more of the type of human welfare and evangelism provided the skipper had the vision of the need and the wonderful opportunity. You will have read my letter of June 18th relative to the Princeton. I believe that Mr. Swanson has recognized the lack of vision. He told one of our National Missions Committee members that he thought he would ask to be given a land pastorate and be relieved of the boat, "Princeton." I asked Mr. Swanson about that statement, and he told me that he had been think of asking to be relieved and given a pastorate. He said he would like to go to Hydaburg for that is a field where there are dependable people and one could see possibilities. I am not in favor of placing him at Hydaburg.

In our National Missions Committee meeting at Juneau we were talking about Walter Soboleff and the field for which he would be best qualified. We talked about the itinerant missionary work. The suggestion was made that Mr. and Mrs. Walter Soboleff would do excellent work on the Hoonah field where they would have the responsibilities of a pastorate in the winter and be itinerant the rest of the year. The members of the Committee thought that would be an excellent arrangement, and it was suggested that Rev. and Mrs. Bromley would do a first class work at Hydaburg. Mr. Bromley is coming to the age where it would be better for him to be relieved of active boat work.

The N. M. Committee members know both Mr. and Mrs. Soboleff very well. The Committee members believe that Mr. Soboleff would do well to gain some knowledge of the work of a pastorate before becoming altogether itinerant.

The following is a summary of my recommendations for boat work in Alaska Presbytery:

1. That the Board locate a man who is known to be and has actually proven himself a winner of souls to serve as the missionary on the Princeton.

2. That Mr. and Mrs. Walter Soboleff be appointed to serve at Hoonah and do itinerant missionary work in connection with that district, being provided with a boat about 50 to 55 feet long powered with a diesel engine. The A. L. Lindsley is too short for safety and comfort as well as for economical operation, in the northern waters of our Presbytery.

3. That the A. L. Lindsley be stationed the year around on the Craig-Klawock field. The missionary on the Craig-Klawock field should have a definite responsibility of reaching the canneries, camps, fur farmers and so on on the West Coast of the Prince of Wales Island.

You are absolutely correct in your statement: "What we want above all things is to take Christ into the hearts and lives of individual natives, and I shall never feel that our program of Alaska is thoroughly efficient until we have a missionary who is reaching the scattered, isolated, and unevangelized portion of the native population who are living in the small villages all along the southeastern Alaska coast."

You should include "WHITES" in that statement for there are as many whites as natives who are unevangelized in the out of the way places in southeastern Alaska. White trollers have asked me why the Princeton does not stop in the bays where they settle and have their boats anchored.

We must relieve Mr. Swanson of responsibility for the Petersburg field as long as he is serving with the Princeton. Later, I expecto recommend that one of the layworkers be placed at Petersburg. We cannot expect the work at Petersburg to show progress with a part time worker nor the Princeton operator to reach the out of the way places when he has to divide his time with Petersburg.

I would like to have you request Mr. Walter Soboleff to give you in writing his vision of the opportunity for the itinerant missionary in Southeastern Alaska, his plan for winning souls and just what he would set out to do the first year in case he is commissioned as an itinerant missionary. Then our National Missions Committee would like to have a copy.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Peterson

Report on my trip to Synod - am sending this to each Presbyter.

Brethern:

Wrangell, July 12th/38

Arrived home from the meeting of Synod this morning. Mr. Waggoner and Mr. Glasse were in attendance also. Rev. John Yonel of Yukon Presbyter was an active representative, participating in the opening service.

Rev. Alexander M. Warren, D.D., assistant to Dr. Klein of the Dept of Evangelism, a younger minister fresh from the pastorate, sounded off with the note of evangelism which was felt throughout all the sessions of the meeting of Synod. The subject of his sermon was "The Choices of Life." His Scripture lesson brought the lesson of Abraham and Lot, a call to pastors and people to a renewed experience at the altar of God.

Rev. Charles J. Boppell, the retiring moderator, gave the communion address with a portion of Luke 27 helping us to think of "The other side of the communion, Jesus' desire."

Rev. Donald Cameron of Aberdeen was elected Moderator and he made a first class presiding officer. He is a man of power. Dr. J. Renwick McCullough, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, is new to our Synod and is a pastor each of us would enjoy knowing better. First Church Tacoma proved a delightful host. Breakfast was served at 7:15 each morning, prayermeeting was conducted each morning at 8 in a small chapel, sessions began at 8:30. Dr. Paul Calhoun led the first 8 o'clock prayer gathering with a challenging thought on the "Vital Church" in which his strongest illustration was the Watchmaker's Advice, "Begin the day with a tight spring."

Dr. McCartney opened the 8:30 session with the group reciting in unison the Apostles Creed, Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer. Dr. Herrick B. Young is a live secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions. I heard him at Assembly two years ago and was eager to listen to his address this year, and he did not disappoint us. Foreign Missions are as challenging as ever. Dr. Calhoun introduced Rev. Alexander M. Warren for the message and conference on "The Pastor and Evangelism." Short statements and questions from his address: "Prophets of God are failing because they are discouraged." "The best remedy is to take your Bible, seek out an individual and talk Christ." "Pastors are guilty of cataloging their congregations." "Specialize in the impossible." "How many of you have spoken to some one about Christ in the past week?" "Do you know Christ as your own Saviour?" "Locate our people again." "Use a series of subjects--any term." As I recall his message, it was a renewed emphasis on using the Bible in my own life and then going out with my Bible to speak with individuals. Today we must take Christ to the people. Dr. Warren's next address was on "Church Members and Evangelism." "What do we mean by a spiritually minded person? Not one who talks about people." "Are we seeking out people who do not come to church?" "Personal work must be in the parlor as well as at the back door." "Get hold of some who are doing things for Christ."

Rev. George J. Adams of Chosen gave his message as he appeared in the attire of a Korean, and later he showed some fine motion pictures. He addressed the Synod in the rollof a Korean trying to tell the church the work accomplished by the missionaries. He was good and his dress interesting.

Dr. James Thomson and Dr. Arthur H. Limouze renewed our consciousness of Synodical and National Responsibility for missions. They permitted us to see the need for our strongest spiritual as well as financial support during the coming year. Dr. Limouze invited the Alaskans to lunch to renew contacts with the territory. Dr. and Mrs. Limouze hope to visit Alaska and conduct some spiritual conferences in centers of both Yukon and Alaska Presbyteries. They feel they cannot do so this year, but hope the way may open for a fall or winter visit in the not distant future.

Dr. Charles J. Doppell presented his helpful theme, "Bible Master," and it is my prayer that many churches in this presbytery will use the month of October as a month for the study and reading daily of the suggested, First Epistle of John. You will be receiving material from Mr. Doppell and our concerted study can prove stimulating. Dr. Ralph W. Bayless, Pacific Coast representative for the American Bible Society urged the observance of American Bible Sunday, the first Sunday in December. He showed particular interest in Alaska. If you are interested in securing more American Bible Society Bibles, write direct to Mr. Bayless and he will give you the best prices possible. Perhaps we can get a grant of Bibles through Dr. Somerndike.

Dr. Mark A. Matthews address on Presbyterian Law was more on the changes which appear today, and he gave some helpful points for our guidance as presbyters. He has been invited to address Synod next year and all in attendance will find that address valuable.

The Report and Address on Christian Education took the afternoon and evening of the closing day. There is so much material available that we can secure all we need to bring the Sesquicentennial to our fields. The Board of Christian Education has such important responsibilities that we must study the reports. Soon the assembly minutes will be along and they'll have much helpful material. Dr. Thomson has the Synod's minutes at the printers now and they will soon be in your hands. Let us read them.

Miss Rachael McDowell, sister of the late Dr. John McDowell, the religious editor of the New York Times, gave us many good pointers in her address, "If I Were a Preacher." She said she likes the Doctrine of Living as suggested by the Social Movement. Will give a few statements which I jotted down as she again and again said, "If I were a preacher."

I would preach the Bread of Life, convictions not doubts

I would show gratification for the pews filled and not blame the people present for the empty pews. Show optimism and faith in the truth.

Would make use of the radio and theatre--give a good word when the theaters put on a good religious play and the movies show good religious pictures.

Be my own evangelist. Show enthusiasm. Not advertize at the expense of other churches.

KEEP MY CHURCH OPEN EVERY DAY, ALL DAY AND IN THE EVENING.

Have young men as ushers in my church, secretaries which are polite.

Have no fairs, no bazars---for gain. Raise no money for God's house by gambling devices such as bingo.

Make every neighboring pastor. No more personal work. NEVER MAKE A PASTORAL CALL WHERE I DID NOT OFFER PRAYER. BE WELL GROOMED BUT NOT A FASHION PLAYS.

Not take a long vacation. Never officiate at the marriage of a divorcee, never take a fee for a funeral, never be silent when there is profanity, public or private. Sleep as at rest, satisfied with my ministry until I had a journey to Palestine.

SPEND EACH MORNING AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR IN PRAYER. Use all the time I had in public surroundings in silent prayer. Try to have a gift of tears, rejoice with them that rejoice, sympathize with those in sorrow.

Would not criticize my denominational paper.

Do not, speak, think--my sympathies would have a spiritual law.

Try to make such an absolute surrender of my life that I might be like Jesus. Try to get every soul in the community right with God.

Miss McDowell told me personally she would like to see her vacation in Alaska, another year.

Sincerely, Russell F. Fairbank, Jr.

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Box 275
Wrangell
July 12th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Reached Wrangell at 1:15 this morning. I found the family all well and that all the regular services had been conducted. The California C. E. Union tour had been here and conducted a rally in our church. They brought much inspiration.

Rev. E. E. Bromley answered your inquiry of the 15th as it pertained to the Hoonah field as follows: "I am writing in answer to your letter of the 20th of June regarding an appropriation of one hundred dollars for Hoonah repairs or improvements. This must refer to the request that went in through the National Missions Com. for one hundred dollars for a new stove for the Lindsley. I assume this for we did not ask for any money for Hoonah. The stove for the Lindsley was to be an oil burning stove and I have not succeeded in finding one. I wanted it for use this season and did my best to get one. Now that the boat work for this year is so far along I think we had better wait until next spring before buying the stove. So you can report to the Board that we would like to have this money available next spring."

Rev. A. D. Swogger may have written you direct. I heard nothing so far from him as to the amount needed before Sept 30/38, for the new manse at Metlakatla. I judge that he will need all of the balance.

Am waiting for the information on Hydaburg and Kake. May have it the end of this week.

Toward the transfer of the property for the Angoon Manse, the Department of the Interior Townsite Trustee has sent me a set of blanks. Will try to contact Mr. Johnson who is out fishing. His application for title will have to go to Anchorage. Then on completion of the restricted deed he must secure the approval of transfer of title from the Secretary of the Interior. It takes lots of time and patience to deal with properties held by the Indians.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

July
14th
1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have yours of July 8th. I am in favor of appointing Rev. Gordon MacInnes to the work at Craig and Klawock. I know him very well and have a very high opinion of him. He is a Princeton graduate and his standing at Princeton was very high. He was a classmate of Mr. Wheeler's. The only field he has had since graduating has been White Deer, Texas, where I understand he has done good work. He is thoroughly sound in his theological principles, a sober-minded man, and has plenty of common sense. I shall be very glad to write to him, inquiring whether he is willing to undertake that field, especially since it is the judgment of your Committee that a new man be appointed to serve both Craig and Klawock, using the Lindsley. That is entirely satisfactory to me, for I must depend upon the good judgment of you and other men in Alaska who ought to know the situation better than I do and who have been in close touch with the individual fields.

I think it would be an excellent idea for you to visit Craig and Klawock, as suggested in your letter, and if the Princeton is not available I would advise you to engage a boat and we will pay the expense to take you up there.

Having received a very disagreeable letter from Mr. Kaiper, I quite agree with your statements regarding him.

Concerning the native worker at Hydaburg, I will say that the other day I signed an application sent to me by Moody Institute in behalf of Gibson Young, who is applying for a scholarship there. I knew nothing about it until I received this inquiry concerning his character, etc. Of course we cannot appoint Sam Davis or any other worker who is passed seventy years of age. It is too bad that we do not have other native workers whom we could locate in these fields where native workers can do a better job than white men. Possibly it would be well for us to select one of our good native elders and put him in that field.

You will be interested in Mr. Swanson's reaction to my recent letter regarding the possibility of inaugurating a marine missionary work similar to that which is being done by the United Church of Canada. I am surprised at his statement that there are no scattered, isolated, and unevangelized people in southeastern Alaska. Can that be true? I earnestly seek your comment regarding this. Please return Mr. Swanson's letter with your reply.

Faithfully yours,

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, CH.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
MR. W. LESLIE YAW, CH.
SITKA, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, CH.
JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER.
Box 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Box 275
Wrangell
July 16th 1938

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

This evening I received a letter from Rev. A. D. Swogger on the subject of the amount available for the Metlakatla manse. Mr. Swogger writes that you wrote him under date of July 19th that he can count on the sum of \$2300 being available for the building of the manse, and that he had your authority to work out the plans for the building of the house with the men of the church in the way that seems best.

Mr. Swogger has not secured as much free labor as he had good reason to believe would be available. He has had some, and his two sons are working with him at this time. Mr. Swogger's sons are sacrificing their opportunity to earn money for their school expenses while they are working hard helping their father make progress on the manse. They deserve commendation, and I believe more than commendation. They should receive some pay because the family needs the money for educational purposes. But Mr. Swogger has not even hinted at their receiving financial remuneration.

Mr. Swogger will need the entire sum available for the Metlakatla manse. He is trying to complete it as far as possible before fall.

The Hydaburg manse does ^{need} ~~is~~ repair and the full amount will be necessary, but the layworker's summer absence prevents those repairs being made. The amount committed may be made available after October 1st as it will not be used before that time unless something occurs which we do not know now.

The amount of \$500 requested for the Kake Church was toward a basement for the church. George Betts was expecting to secure much volunteer labor in carrying through that project. Mr. Betts is an ideal worker to put that through. The cash will not be needed before October 1st, but it should be ready for use shortly after that time in case Mr. Betts can get his church men to go to work.

Am leaving for Klawock and Craig tomorrow night on the Princeton. Expect to spend a day and evening at each place.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
Box 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
July 22nd 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Using the Princeton Mr. Swanson and I visited Klawock Monday and Craig Tuesday. In Klawock, the leading elder, Robert Peratrovich, took me to several homes for pastoral calls. He seemed pleased to have me evidence interest in their sick. That evening we had a service of worship in which I tried to help the members of the Klawock congregation realize that the church is theirs and that it is their responsibility, that the Board is willing to assist them in their Christian development. Had a long visit with two of the Klawock elders in Klawock and another in Craig. Tuesday morning we went on to Craig where we had a nice reception and did some calling. Two of their elders were in town. We arranged for an evening worship, and the church was nicely filled with whites and Indians.

We found the people appreciative of what the Board has done. They, at least some of them, realize that the mistakes in appointment of Halls and Kaipers were difficult to avoid. The people of the villages pointed several out. We do have to watch out for physical handicaps such as Mrs. Hall had with a previous experience of rheumatic fever and Mr. Kaiper had with one eye in bad condition. It is no wonder that Mr. Kaiper was afraid of the ocean waters. There is much more which could be said, but I believe that it was for the good of the work as a whole that Kaipers left Alaska.

Mrs. Robert Edenso, Craig, Alaska, is willing to carry on a Sunday School this summer. I told her that I would ask you for a grant of the following materials:

- 1 Primary Teacher's Quarterly for Graded Lessons
- 5 Church School Leaflets for Primary
- 2 Queens' Gardens and 2 Pioneers.

We are sending Mrs. Edenso some of our papers to assist her until she receives the above from you.

Mr. Swanson told me that Mrs. Swanson and he would not mind having the Klawock-field. I do not know whether the National Missions Committee members would be in favor of appointing Swansons to Craig-Klawock. Another member of Presbytery told me that he had heard comments from Klawock which cause him to believe they would not be altogether acceptable. I am not certain in my own mind that I would recommend them, and do not know whether the churches would approve. Thought it best to inquire your mind before saying anything to either churches or committee members.

Please do not purposely expose the new missionaries to either the Halls or Kaipers. This is a suggestion from the field. When the new missionaries are appointed, I hope to have the way open to see them get established with the idea of assisting them in a plan of service which will divide their time equally between Klawock and Craig. I promised the two towns that I would do my

best to see that the missionary gives both equal consideration. The place of residence has been difficult to determine. I am thinking of recommending that the missionaries live the first year at Klawock with the definite understanding that the second year they will be making their residence at Craig, and the third year return to the town of Klawock. I think that the members of Presbytery must touch Klawock-Craig workers more often to promote fellowship.

Mr. Swanson showed me your telegram of July 8th and asked what correspondence had caused it. I told him that the committee had instructed me to confer with him, and that I had written you a report, and that likely had something to do with it. He stated that Mr. Bromley had told him that he, as a member of the committee, is not in favor of the winter vacation, but thought he should take the time off during the height of the salmon canning. Mr. Swanson thought you should know that Mr. Bromley had told him this. I am certain that Mr. Swogger and Mr. Webster were emphatically with me, and I thought Mr. Bromley was.

Mr. Swanson is leaving Petersburg today for Sitka to meet Mr. Webster and do some visitation and missionary work such as you informed him is your wish in the Sitka and Angoon district with Mr. Webster working with him for at least two weeks. I think that Mr. Webster has a vision of opportunities for the Princeton workers.

Mr. Swanson is operating the Princeton without a helper. He stated that but ten months salary had been provided. He reports also that the Princeton expense allowance has been used. The grant per year for the Princeton is hardly sufficient. The Princeton lacked certain equipment which had been lost. He has purchased it and will be sending you the bills.

I have inquired as to the salary it would cost to employ a reliable man to operate the Princeton. The least one could expect to secure a reliable boatman for would be \$150 a month. It will be very difficult to find as good boat men as Waggoner and Swanson have proved themselves for less than \$200 a month. The responsibility is heavy when the student and conference trips are on. The Labor Union standard wage of skippers is \$160 and board and room which amounts to about \$200, and they are not engineers and skippers. It may be possible to find a Christian layman who is so missionary minded that he would take such a post on the Princeton.

You asked about placing Walter Soboleff in charge of the boat, Princeton. I believe that would be a mistake for a number of reasons. One is that the Princeton has a greater work than the reaching of the Alaska Indians. The work of the Princeton must take in the whites. No matter how well prepared the Indian may be, he is an Indian. He may be part blood, but he is an Indian. Walter may reach some whites but he would find it impossible to reach many white groups. The work of the Princeton is becoming more and more with the whites. The whites are coming to take Alaska, and you will find the whites in the majority in the fishing camps, on the many island farms, and other places. We can do little with the Indians unless we reach the whites. The Princeton should continue to serve all S.E. Alaska.

You ask about placing Walter Soboleff in the Indian Church at Juneau on Waggoner's retirement. We recognize that Walter is talented and trained, yet I question the wisdom of placing him at Juneau. The mixed bloods will make better progress with a white pastor. The missionaries to follow Waggoners should be a couple with experience, with training for work in religious education, with a successful experience before coming to Alaska. Juneau is a center which can give visitors from Angoon, Kake, Hoonah, Haines, Klukwan and other villages a first hand illustration of a properly functioning and teaching church. Walter could not make the appeal to mixed bloods.

There will be a place for Walter in one of several fields. The day has come that our layworkers must ~~give~~ place to trained leaders. George Betts is the only one of our layworkers who is doing a real job. It cannot be said today that the native workers can do a better job than white men. That day is past. A fully trained native may do good work on certain fields, but not all the native fields.

You made the statement that Gibson Young is interested in attending Moody Institute. I have been disappointed to learn that he is reported to be owing considerable: \$160 to a Hydaburg store, small amounts in Craig, Klawock and Angoon stores, and some thing to Mr. Beck and Mr. Swanson. Am writing Mr. Webster to speak to him and have a definite understanding as to what he will do about his debts.

After reading Mr. Swanson's statement, "In general I would say that there is no portion of the native population that is scattered, isolated & unevangelized in southeastern Alaska," you state your surprise and ask, "CAN THAT BE TRUE?"

The Indian people living in southeastern Alaska are mostly in villages where their families have the privileges of government schools. The men for short periods may be out to camp, that is during the fall and winter. The families at the close of school may be found in small groups in trolling camps, cannery camps, etc., until school days call them back to their villages. They are away from their villages a good bit of the time between early spring and fall. Some of us think they need Christian pastoral contacts during that time. Some of the Indians do not leave their towns.

There are a great many Whites which are isolated the year around since some have farms on the many islands and trollers group together in good harbors away from towns.

Both Indians and whites at some time have had a contact with the Gospel message, but that does not mean that they are evangelized in the meaning of being actually won to Christ or given sufficient understanding to grasp the meaning of being a Christian. They have been exposed. Progress today must come from personal work and the teaching of Christian living. Visiting the isolated will cost in both time and money, but the missionary can visit isolated farmers, trollers, lighthouse keepers, cannery watchmen, etc., and then establish Home Department relationships through a correspondence system.

Mr. Waggoner was here last night. Plans for the new church in Juneau are being delayed by his absence on the tour. He expects to be in Juneau about July 30th. I am planning on going to Juneau, August 1st. I think he expects that fruit from his trip to Hiverside and San Jose may add funds so that he can get more building than the \$13,000 or \$14,000 will erect.

Sincerely, *Russell F. Redman*

July 28th, 1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter of July 22nd. First of all, let me say that I am rather surprised that you do not favor Walter Soboleff's appointment as Mr. Waggoner's successor in charge of the native church at Juneau. I am not going to press the suggestion that he be engaged in a boat ministry, and the more I think about him in connection with the native work at Juneau, the more I am convinced that Juneau native church is exactly the place where he can best serve. By placing a native in charge of that church we are, first of all, doing the logical thing, and we are recognizing the training that we have given to this young native by giving him an opportunity to take his place in charge of a church on a basis that will enable us to advance him to the same levels as our white missionaries. In the second place, by placing a trained native in charge of Juneau we will avoid the rivalry and conflict which has always prevailed with two white ministers in Juneau. In the third place, when Presbyterians visit Alaska and stop in Juneau, it will be greatly to the credit of our administrative wisdom if they find a trained native in charge of the native church, and there will be no rivalry between him and the pastor of the Northern Light Church in showing visitors our Presbyterian work in the capital city.

I have talked with other officers of our Board regarding this situation and we are all agreed that Walter Soboleff should be appointed to be Mr. Waggoner's successor. If for no other reason than the fact that he can appeal to the young people, we should place him in that field. Still another reason, and a very strong one, for appointing Walter to Juneau is the opportunity that it will give us to demonstrate to the white people in Juneau what can be done with a native in the way of training, and what a native can do, when trained, in the way of serving his own people. It is our judgment here at headquarters that unless we give recognition to the training that Walter received by placing him in charge of an important field like Juneau, we would be subjecting ourselves to severe criticisms and condemnation for acting in a manner that is inconsistent with the policy that we have announced of training native men for leadership among their own people. As I have talked with Walter, I am quite convinced that he is fully as competent, and will do equally as good work as some of our white missionaries in Alaska, and that he will be able to appeal to the young people in a far more effective way than some of our other missionaries are now doing.

I quite agree with you that it would not be wise to put Walter in charge of a boat, but we will offer him the field in Juneau and we earnestly hope that your Committee will concur in these plans.

Your letter states that you are writing to Mr. Webster about Gibson Young's debts, but you do not say anything about his plans for further training. You will recall that in my letter I told you that I had been asked to endorse his credentials for entrance as a student in Moody Institute. It was my thought that you would get in touch with Gibson Young and ascertain what encouragement he has received to go to Moody Institute, how he is planning to finance his training there, and whether - in case he is prepared to take further training - he would prefer to have us make scholarship arrangements for him to go to Dubuque Seminary where he can receive training such as Walter Scholeff has received, under the auspices of our Church.

I catch the emphasis in your letter upon the needs of white people in Alaska. Believe me, I am quite as zealous for evangelistic work among the white people in Alaska as you and the other white missionaries are. As you know I have pledged for greater emphasis upon our responsibility to the unchurched white people in the Territory. I have no desire to neglect them. In proof of this I ask you to recall the distress of mind and spirit which I have suffered over the situation in Sitka where the spiritual needs of the white constituency were cast aside and an investment of many thousands of dollars by the Board in the church building lost because of the desire of the missionary to serve the native people in preference to whites. It will take our Board quite a while to recover from the effects of that unfortunate experience. My concern for the villages and hamlets, cannery camps, and fishing camps is not specifically for the sake of the natives, but for both whites and natives who are to be found in those little pockets of population and who are unchurched. Mr. Swanson does not seem to feel any challenge in behalf of these small and isolated groups; nor does he seem to be actuated by an evangelistic zeal to win these people who are out of touch with any church, to a knowledge of Christ. What a glorious opportunity they present for personal evangelism day by day! I can visualize a man of missionary and evangelistic zeal, with the "Princeton" as his vehicle, going out eagerly, and enthusiastically, to find the last man, woman, boy, and girl, especially those who never have an opportunity to attend a religious service, to give them the story of salvation, and to win them to Christ, not scorning to stop in the poorest, the humblest, and the most sparsely populated places. Wherever there are human souls needing Christ is where the "Princeton" ought to go with its messenger of salvation.

I have been doing some figuring on the Alaska budget, and with some changes and adjustments that I am able to make in our work next year, I would propose:

1. That we do not re-appoint Mr. Swanson for the next budget year, but leave him free to find a church in the States if he so desires.

2. That we appoint you as the general missionary for Alaska Presbytery with itinerating responsibilities, using the "Princeton" as your means of transportation.

3. That we appropriate the sum of \$1,500 a year as the salary of a competent man to operate the "Princeton." I do not believe it would be necessary for us to employ a helper in addition. It ought to be possible for us to find ~~somebody~~ ^{somebody} who understands Diesel engines among all the boatmen in southeastern Alaska - a Christian man who would be in sympathy with our missionary program, who would be willing to accept a position of this kind at a stated salary paid monthly throughout the year. If he has a wife and family he could make arrangements for their residence at a point that would be agreed upon between you and him. They ought to be located at the place where you will make your headquarters.

4. We would appoint a missionary in your place at Wrangell.

5. The operator of the boat would be responsible for taking the children back and forth from Sheldon Jackson School and Haines School, as at present, on a basis of compensation arranged with headquarters and not, as at present, with the skipper of the boat.

6. We would allow \$600 per year for the upkeep of the "Princeton" instead of \$300 as at present, and such amounts as are paid by the Unit of Education and Medical Work for the transportation of students would be available in addition to this amount for the "Princeton" maintenance.

7. Your appointment would be at your present salary with a reasonable allowance for house rent.

I would like you to carefully consider this proposal. It seems to me to offer a solution to this problem which has been troubling us for some time and which I believe is impossible of solution so long as we retain Mr. Swanson as the skipper of the boat. Under this plan we will have a missionary who knows the territory, and who is sufficiently fired with evangelistic zeal to give himself devotedly and energetically to a program of evangelism, which of course would include vacation Bible school work at the appropriate season, visiting the villages and hamlets in the coves and in the back country, mining villages and camps where the gospel is never preached, giving these people the Word of Life.

I am sure that you could justify your appointment to this task by the great service that you would thus be able to render to people who are otherwise unreached. Another advantage of the plan is that we are relieving the missionary of the responsibility of being an engineer, a navigator, and a repairman. The boat is simply his means of transportation, as an automobile is the means of transportation for missionaries here in the States. All the useful services that the "Princeton" now renders would be continued, of course, and you ought to be able to find a man whom you can employ as the skipper of the boat, whom we could trust to use the boat on errands of mercy whenever it is necessary for it to be so used. On such errands it would be especially advantageous for you to be on the boat as the minister of comfort to those who need such ministry.

I would like to have your reaction to these proposals at your earliest convenience.

I am obliged to say that I do not believe that your plan of locating a missionary at Klawock and Craig, with the understanding that he will live the first year at Klawock and then change his residence to Craig the second year, will be at all practicable. I do not believe that such a plan would appeal to the kind of man that we want for that field. A man's wife must be considered also. I am confident that Mrs. Pederson would not look with favor upon accepting an appointment to any field where she would be obliged to move every year. The manse at Klawock is in good condition and the missionary whom we appoint should be located there. I believe the Board will insist upon this. I have not yet heard from Mr. MacInnes of White Deer, Texas, to whom I wrote with reference to this field. I hope he will accept it. He is a good man, very devoted, and with a strong missionary spirit.

I have no fears whatever concerning any statements which Mr. Hall or Mr.

Kuyper may make. As a matter of fact I cannot think of anyone writing a more condemnatory letter than Mr. Kuyper wrote to me, and with less justification. I always welcome freedom of speech and honest criticism. In Mr. Kuyper's case I do not think that the criticism was entirely honest, but I believe that nothing is gained by trying to silence folks. Let them talk. When our own course has been honest and clear we need have no fear of anything that may be said whether it is true or whether it is slanderous.

I shall send the Sunday school supplies to Mrs. Edenso as you have requested.

Just a final word: I do not favor the appointment of Mr. Swanson to the Klawock and Craig field. I hope that you will do everything possible to expedite the work on the new church in Juneau according to the plans set forth in my letter to you regarding this project. Please follow these plans as implicitly as you can and let Mr. Waggoner understand that you are representing the headquarters office in this matter and that no variations or changes in the policy outlined in that letter can be made without first submitting the matter to the headquarters office.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
August 2nd 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for the copy of "The Local Church and the Liquor Problem." We'll certainly study the material therein. Our people have not been asleep, and they welcome suggestions which will assist in the preservation of their homes and community. Our missionary society is doing much to help the situation in the town of Wrangell. I think that every member wears the W.C.T.U. white ribbon emblem, and that counts for more than you can realize in such a community as this.

Dr. Somerndike, I wonder whether you would like to secure a grant for us of twenty or twenty five American Bible Society Bibles. We will need them for the Bible classes at Wrangell Institute this fall. We could use about 20 of the New Testaments bound in the cloth with overlapping covers. It may be possible to sell some of these to the students, and then make the return to you.

We could use more of the pamphlet, "Our Alaska Missions," for distribution to tourist visitors who are interested enough to look up the church and try to take notes on Alaska activities. Twenty five more would meet our distribution need for this summer.

Alaska has had an unprecedented rain this spring and summer. Tonight we had two large tourist boats in port, but the continued heavy downpour kept more on the ship than came ashore. Curio business is suffering. The older Indian women who sit on the docks with their handicraft have had to move to store doorways, and sales are not good.

Tonight I heard over shortwave that the run of salmon has increased in ~~central~~ Alaska. Our fishermen are hoping that more fish will show up in this district. The canneries are all set to run, the labor problems are ironed out, all our people both native and white have jobs, but the salmon is not here. We all feel that the fish must be coming soon.

Enclosed is a draft, portion of which is for National Missions.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell
August 3rd 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Just received an emergency request from Rev. E.E. Bromley of Hoonah for a Cylinder Head for the engine of the "A.L. Lindsley."

Mr. Bromley asked me to wire for a new cylinder head because he does not want to stop the visitation work which is at its best right now.

He said that if the Board does not have the money now, he will pay for it himself, and wait for the refund until the Board can make it.

A Wrangell firm has given us a wholesale price on engine parts before. They ordered a cylinder head for us when Rev. Robert Hall had the Lindsley at Klawock a little over two years ago. We cannot find out immediately what the cost of the cylinder head will be, perhaps \$100 to \$125.

I have wired for the cylinder head because I believe you will want the boat to continue the work without interruption.

Mr. Webster and Swanson called this morning. They have had a great inspiration in their tour of itineration. They first put on a V B S at Todd cannery and then started out for cannery visitation. They have been agreeably surprised at the splendid response. Last night they had over a hundred in attendance at the Waterfall cannery. They had fine meetings at Craig and Klawock, a good attendance at Steamboat bay with the cannery sup't and other officers enjoying the service also. All along the way the visits have been appreciated. This is another proof that there is work for the Princeton to do when the leadership is aggressive. They are going to Chicagoff after a call at Juneau with a couple of hospital patients.

I do not know what Swanson is going to attempt to do after he leaves Webster at Sitka next week. He did not ask my advice or counsel. I thought it wiser for me to let him ask for suggestions rather than for me to start to tell him anymore at this time. There is work to do and I often wish that I could go about some with him, but I know that there is work to do here, and this work must not be neglected. There are so many opportunities in this great Territory.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Aug.
12th
1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Replying to yours of August 3rd, I am sorry to say that there is no money available in the National Missions repair fund for any repairs whatever until the beginning of the new budget year, October 1st. If Mr. Bromley wishes to advance the amount necessary for the new cylinder-head, I feel sufficiently sure that I can secure a grant of the amount necessary to reimburse him that I am willing to authorize him to go ahead with the repair; but I can secure no money to reimburse him until after October 1st.

I will be glad to make application for a grant of twenty-five Bibles for use in your Bible classes at Wrangell Institute. I will inquire also whether the Bible Society will be willing to send you twenty copies of the "New Testament" bound in cloth with overlapping covers, with the understanding that you will refund any money that you may receive from the sale of these Testaments. I hope that they will be able to do it.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

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Box 275
Wrangell
August 12th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Thank you for your letter of July 28th. The definite question as to whether the National Missions Committee will concur in the proposal that Walter Soboleff be appointed to succeed Mr. Waggoner will be answered as soon as I hear from the other members.

I have both seen and ^{written} asked Mr. Webster to get in touch with Gibson Young as to the information you desire. Gibson is fishing.

Now I will offer our reactions as to the proposals you submitted.

(No. 1) If you mean not to re-appoint Mr. Swanson for the budget year beginning, Oct 1/38, I cannot help questioning the justice of action without longer notice. Perhaps he has written something to you of which I know nothing. He is scheduled to attend General Assembly as a Commissioner next spring as is implied by his being elected Alternate Commissioner this year. Many members of Presbytery will feel that he should be permitted to serve until after that time. Of course it is likely he will be taking a month of vacation this winter and then six weeks in connection with the Assembly. Mr. Swanson does have many strong points as well as his weaknesses.

(No. 3) I have made careful inquiry as to the possibility of securing a competent operator for the Princeton. There is no doubt as to such a man being available, but we'll have to be careful in the selection. Through the operator of the Princeton, the Board of National Missions has far reaching liabilities. Around Wrangell I have been unable to find a competent man who would be at all interested for less than \$1,800 a year and board.

My suggestion is that Mr. Swanson be employed for the time being as the operator of the Princeton, that the second man as general missionary be placed with him beginning Oct 1st/38.

(Nos. 5 & 6) Yes.

(Nos. 2 & 7) Your proposal to appoint me as the general missionary for Alaska Presbytery with itinerating responsibilities, using the Princeton as my means of transportation, is attractive. I do visualize the deep joys and satisfaction as you have described them. Your presentation of this service almost persuades us to say, "Yes." Yet we have questioned, and after days and nights of prayer we have decided to answer in the negative.

We are convinced that I should decline for the following reasons:

First, the local physician instructed me to be careful on account of my knee and back. Two years ago I hurt my back while helping to excavate for additional drain tile installation under the Wrangell Church, and last summer I slipped down between two floats in the harbor and injured my right knee. Both have improved and do not hinder me in ordinary activity.

Second, to serve as I visualize the general missionary should minister, would require being away from home practically all the time. Our family of three boys and two girls must be a present thought. As Mrs. Pederson has said, "The children need their father as well as their mother." You wrote me that same conviction some time ago. Our children are not a handicap to serving in a pastorate. Mrs. Pederson and I believe our family needs both of us at this period of their life.

Third, to accept the appointment of general missionary at my present salary and a manse allowance would not work out financially for us. Mrs. Pederson is economizing at each point. We have gotten along without going into debt, and at the same time without the fresh fruits and meats which our people enjoy. The cost of the family's living would be about the same whether or not I was present. In addition I would have the ~~cost~~ of my own groceries, and extra clothes and laundry would be an unavoidable extra.

(Proposal No. 4) "We would appoint a missionary in your place at Wrangell."

We are willing to serve in Wrangell, have a full program for the year before us, are rejoicing to participate in the definitely forward advance of the Indian as well as White ministry.

While in Sitka yesterday, I told Mr. Webster that you believe that you may be able to put the second man on the Princeton this fall. I did not tell him that you had proposed my appointment as general missionary. I asked Mr. Webster his suggestion as to the best man in our Presbytery for that appointment, and he suggested Rev. Donald G. Christiansen. From our conversation I judge that Mr. Webster would be willing to accept such an appointment himself. Mrs. Webster would like to have the children enjoy the privileges of Juneau. Mrs. Pederson also would like to have our children have the privileges of that larger center. Websters might prove to be exceptionally fine workers at such a task. He is the strongest evangelist we have in the Presbytery, that is as a speaker, and he has manifested his desire to do that work by taking half his vacation this year to do some work like you propose.

In case you wish to make a change in the leadership at Sitka, I think that Websters would be willing to serve as general missionary on the Princeton, and that the Sitka Church would be pleased to have Christiansens as their pastor. Of course I have not proposed this to anyone, but I am offering it as a probability for your consideration.

On receipt of your letter of the 28th of July I was convinced that it was time for me to again make the trip to Juneau to help expedite the work on the new church. I went over several points with Mr. Troast and Mr. Waggoner, and the plans should be blue-printed next week and the specifications drawn ready for your consideration. Mr. Troast stated that he delayed work on the plans on account of the delayed acceptance of the title by the Board. Mr. Troast is endeavoring to provide the plant outlined in your letter and yet keep within financial limits.

Returning from Juneau the steamer stopped at Hoonah where I had opportunity for conference with Rev. and Mrs. Bromley, then at Sitka where I had a long conversation with both the Websters and the Soboleffs, and at Tyee where opportunity came for a visit with Mr. George Betts. It seemed that many openings came to me for contacts which will help me to better serve the N.M. Committee. I left Wrangell Monday evening, the 8th. Made the trip without missing a Sunday on the Wrangell field. I regret that I must enclose an expense voucher for \$18.00 for this travel. This is less than regular fare because I caught a government boat part way.

Rev. E. E. Knudsen and Rev. R. K. Wheeler each asked me to try to arrange to spend a few hours with them some time in their communities. Mr. Swanson is scheduled to go to Haines with children for the Home, and then with their students to Sheldon Jackson School. I suggested to him that I might go along with him if he planned to leave so that I would not miss Sunday in Wrangell. Therefore he has planned on leaving Wrangell, Sunday night, Aug 28th, and touch the necessary ports to pick up children. I felt that I should take this opportunity to visit Knudsen and Wheeler as it will be about the last possibility without additional travel cost.

Our N. M. Committee does hope that you will soon have the proper missionaries for the Klawock-Craig field. Have been looking for the letter which would tell us about them.

The Inspectors of the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection inspected the M/s Princeton, August 9th. They gave Mr. Swanson certain details to put in order. While I was in Juneau one of the Inspectors told me about the inspection. As they put in their communication, "The only remedy for the leaks around the pilot house and engine room is to condemn the present pilot house and continue the main deck on through; then place the new deck house on top of deck, running the new beams, probably eight or nine in number, from side to side. Also see that new carlins (beams) are in contact with and fastened to frame tops and that the shelves are of sufficient strength."

I believe that Mr. Swanson's plan of some time ago of raising the pilot house, running the deck clear through and adding cabin space is practical. If I were to serve on the Princeton, I would wish to have a private cabin. There is absolutely no privacy for a member of the crew on the Princeton as things are now arranged. My idea is that the additional cabin space should provide a cabin for the skipper and another cabin for the general missionary..

Sincerely, Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
August 15th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike: MONTHLY NARRATIVE FOR WRANGELL

This has been one of the most interesting months of the year. Mrs. Pederson and I have carried on the program of ministry in Wrangell as well as having the privilege of special contacts at other places.

Our Women's Missionary Society has surprised us in their excellent response. Though the Indian women are in the midst of the salmon canning and blue berrying they are taking time to attend the missionary society meetings twice a month. They are enjoying their sowing circle. Then they are canning at home and bringing to their meetings jars of berries and fish which will be cased and forwarded to Haines House the end of this month. They are showing a deep desire for the study of the Life of Christ as Mrs. Pederson is presenting the subject with her sets of large pictures. She has the ability to teach in such a way that she reaches their understanding. Almost all the members have joined an inner circle of wearers of the W C T U white ribbon. We feel their fellowship is giving them strength to say, "NO," to some of the temptations forced upon our Indian people.

The Church and Sunday School attendance has been good for the summer time, and the boys and girls are looking forward to the opening of the Vacation Bible School this morning. We delayed the school on account of an epidemic of scarlet fever present when school was dismissed at the beginning of summer.

Our Ladies' Aid Society is touching the life of many who do not come to Sunday worship with regularity, several of them are members of the Home Department. They are a live helpful organization. They help much in carrying the budget.

At Wrangell Institute there are but a few on the campus. In the Health Centre where we take papers each week we have but four boys and three girls left taking the rest treatment for tuberculosis. They appreciate the papers, a bit of the Word of God and prayer from time to time. There are a few boys helping put the buildings in order. The girls who remained for the summer are now in town working in the salmon canneries. All love our Presbyterian publications.

The 18th and 19th I went with Mr. Swanson to Klawock and Craig. We visited the sick and distressed of each town and held services in their churches. As individuals and as communities they expressed thankfulness for pastoral visits. We pray that soon the new missionary may come to those fields.

The 9th of August I used in Juneau in connection with the new building. The 10th was in Hoonah and the 11th in Sitka. The 12th was in Tyee and Petersburg and then back to Wrangell. Am thankful to be in missionary service.

Sincerely, Russell F. Pederson

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
August 19th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Tonight, along with Mr. Bromley's report and narrative, there came a copy of a letter which Mr. Bromley dated 8/16 '38 which he wrote he mailed you on the subject of the new church building in Juneau.

Mr. Bromley has misunderstood me if he understood me to say "that you are considering making the social rooms smaller to save money for the new Manse."

Mr. Bromley visited Juneau last week, and I can guess that Mr. Waggoner had a good visit with him. Mr. Waggoner seems to fear that the \$13,000 or \$14,000 will not be sufficient to build the plant. He spoke to me, and he likely has been talking to Mr. Bromley on the subject of using the \$2,000 which you indicated in your letter should be kept in reserve to be added to the sale amount of the old manse for the building of the new manse.

The architect, Mr. Troast, is supposed to be drawing up the plans and specifications as they were formerly presented for the basement and first floor. That will make a complete plant. I insisted that he try to keep within the \$14,000 figure at the most. I was hoping that those papers would be in the mail tonight so they might go right on to you, but they did not come.

Received your letter in which you wrote that Mr. McInnes has accepted a call to another church. We do hope that you'll soon find another good sturdy missionary couple for Klawock and Craig.

Thank you for the booklets, "Our Alaska missions." Also, I wish to thank you for trying to secure the Bibles and Testaments for use here.

Mr. Swanson was here the 16th. He said he expected to be in Ketchikan the 19th or today and have the injectors on the engine of the Princeton changed. He gave me to understand that the company had made an improvement and would change them without charge. He was to go to Klawock and Craig for the 21st.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

J.L.Webster, July-August

Somewhat more than half of this period I devoted to extension work, first with the help of W. S. Hills, a young man from Oak Park, Ill., who is spending the summer at S.J.S., then in cooperation with Mr. & Mrs. Swanson on the Princeton. At Todd Cannery we conducted a V.B.S. for five days and held three services with attendance increasing from 30 to 80 the last night. Hills then returned to Sitka, while I went with the Princeton to Tyee Cannery. Here we made pastoral calls and held an evening service in the Filipino bunkhouse with an attendance of about 60. By 9 o'clock we were on our way down Chatham Strait again. I stood night watch for Mr. Swanson and think I never saw so beautiful a night. The glow of the sun was visible all night in the northern sky and the stars competed with the northern lights in glory. Next day (Saturday) we spent at Steamboat Bay Cannery, holding a Bible School with 18 children in the afternoon and a service of 100 at the Oriental bunkhouse in the evening. Sunday morning we were at Klavock, evening at Craig with S.J.S. choirs at both services. Travelling on we left Alice Lake, a S.J.S. girl at Waterfall Cannery to work. Then south to Hydaburg and Rose Inlet Cannery to pick up three girls with tuberculosis for the Juneau hospital. By Monday evening we were back at Waterfall for a prayer meeting. Next day, Tuesday we devoted to a Bible School, pastoral calls and an afternoon service when the fish were done for the day. This was held in the second floor of the big fish house, with empty salmon boxes for seats. I had an interesting talk with a group of Filipinos after the service, answering questions about the Bible and Church.

On Wednesday we stopped at Wrangell and Petersburg on our way to Juneau where we spent most of Thursday. Friday morning we reached Chichigoff Mine, about fifty miles west and north of Sitka. Here we held services Friday, Saturday & Sunday and five sessions of Bible School with an average attendance of about 20 children. We also organized a Sunday School which we hope will be permanent. We left the one collection we took as a nucleus for their hymn book fund. I am expecting our church to help them financially.

The attitude of the workers at the mine was unfriendly, in contrast to that of the cannery workers, who were sometimes indifferent, but on the whole welcomed us cordially. The mothers of the few families at Chichigoff are our main hope of progress there. So far as I know this was the first visit by a Presbyterian worker. Catholic priests have made annual visits. There are about 140 people.

Ralph Kline Wheeler, August 16.

Mr. & Mrs. Knudsen exchanged fields with us for a week starting last Saturday.....Attendance has been better than other summers as the Bromleys noticed during their visit.

The big event of the month was the annual Sunday School picnic at Lake Bennett as the guests of the Skagway Sunday School. The weather was really perfect. The Knudsens had planned everything well, -the races were popular and the children all got their fresh milk.

The Christian Fellowship Tour arrived late on a Saturday night. We provided transportation for all of them to the House and they got a good idea of service being rendered to the orphans.

E.E.Bromley and the A.L.Lindsley

Had a hearty welcome at Hawk Inlet where over 80 of our native people and orientals attended worship. Am hoping the new engine head will arrive soon. Have been patching the leaking one, but twice came to port on two cylinders instead of three. The new was ordered by wire, but evidently has to come from San Francisco. Members of the Christian Fellowship Tour rode on the A.L.Lindsley from Hoonah to Icy Straits Cannery. One of the Tour was a member of First Church Portland, Dr. A.L. Lindsley's Church in Portland. She knows his daughter and was glad of the privilege of riding on the boat named for the former pastor.

Sincerely, Russell A. Pederson

Edwin E. Knudson,

July and August. We have been looking for summer since coming to Skagway, but it seems that there isn't to be any this year. Just clouds and rain and wind. Nevertheless the sun has been shining within and the work in the church has been a joy. The tourist season is still with us and consequently if one is to see the members of the church one has to go where they are working. Some of the time was spent in calling on the men at the wharf, shops, and offices. The boys' class in Sunday School went for a three day hike up into the mountains and had a very happy time.

Alfred D. Swonger,

Ketchikan has had a new experience. "In my last month's report I mentioned the possibility of a course of Bible instruction taught by Mrs. Swonger, in connection with the Summer School session in the Public School. Mrs. Smyth, wife of the minister of the Duncan Church, and Mrs. Swonger, each had a division for Bible instruction, and activity period. The school had an enrollment of 75 or a few more. Mrs. Swonger had an enrollment in her division of 50, with an average daily attendance of 27. She spent 1 1/2 hours in the school, dividing that time between Bible story period, memory work, and an activity period. She feels the venture was a profitable one. It was a variation from the regular Vacation Church School, and was a lot easier handled. However we do not feel that it took the place of a regular V.C.S., but under the existing circumstances was a good substitute.....Work on the new house is progressing. The outside work is being pushed as rapidly as possible in order to get the building painted before the bad weather of the fall sets in. We receive many commendations from interested visitors on the progress being made. It is earnestly hoped that it will be ready for occupancy before the winter sets in."

Donald G. Christiansen,

"Just a few more days left in the salmon fishing season, and finally the seiners seem to be getting good catches. Up until last week the fishing had been very poor, but we are glad the run started and hope that our men will be able to make a reasonable amount of money this summer." Don and Betty are going out on a vacation this fall, leaving Ketchikan the 17th of September. Mr. Beck is carrying on for them while they are gone. Don wrote, "We are surely fortunate to have him in town and appreciate his willingness to step in and help whenever the occasion demands." Don, several of us wish that there were more Mr. Becks.

Wrangell. We had our Vacation Bible School, August 15th to 26th, and the response was encouraging. The children seemed a little more interested in a fall than a spring school. Yet, on account of the business in canneries, and especially just at the close of the season, some of our young people had to remain at home and take care of their little brothers and sisters. We'll try to put on our school in the spring after this. For handcraft our older young people prepared plywood boards on which they mounted pictures from Scripture Text calendars, and the younger made up books. We made a brief study of the Gospel of Matthew and took much of our memory work from that Gospel. In addition several learned the Apostles' Creed and I Corinthians 13.

Wrangell Institute is getting ready for a large enrollment. They have installed new oil burners with hope of cutting consumption of fuel oil. Their preparation of salmon for school use has aroused much interest. Mrs. Pederson and I hope you will let us know about the young people coming from your town, and do get permission for them to attend Bible classes. Sincerely, Russell E. Pederson

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
September 6th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Last week I had the privilege of visiting most of the fields and workers to the north while Mr. Swanson was gathering children to go to Haines House, and then taking Haines House children to Sheldon Jackson School.

The enclosed copy of a communication to the members of the N. M. Committee may be of interest to you. Until I have heard from the Committee members I believe the appointment of the layworker for Angoon should be deferred.

In case Mr. Wanamaker goes over our heads by writing direct to you, I wish you would not commit yourself as to appointment. We'll give you our recommendation as early as we can.

I have asked Mr. Webster to go as a member of the N.M. Committee for a visit to Rev. S. G. Davis. I believe that he may accomplish something by assisting the church members to raise more toward the salary in case Mr. Davis is definitely willing to serve at Hydaburg this coming winter.

This letter and enclosure is just to let you know that as a Committee we are doing our best to function.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

P.S. Mr. Webster is going on the Princeton as Mr. Swanson gathers the Hydaburg, Craig and Klawock children for Sheldon Jackson School. This means that there will be no travel expense, or should be none.

Brethern:

Greetings. The Princeton docked at Wrangell yesterday at 2 a.m. We had a fine trip around the north end of the Presbytery.

One of our problems is to do the right thing in recommending the layworker to be appointed to serve at Angoon.

My understanding of the expressions of Webster, Waggoner and Swanson is that they believe that Andrew Wanamaker should not be appointed to serve at Angoon, that he has completed his usefulness as a layworker on that field. I understand that the present Sunday School Superintendent has not found him cooperative and that he is failing to do what should be expected with work with the young people.

I wrote Samuel G. Johnson asking him whether he would accept the appointment to serve as layworker at Angoon. The above members of Presbytery and others have expressed themselves as convinced that Mr. Johnson is much to be preferred. There came an answer from Mr. Johnson as follows: "Yes your letter was handed to me while out at Peril Strait by Geo. Betts. Disappointing to know that Brother Wanamaker is not re-appointed for the coming year. I have been all the time counting on him for Angoon this year again. For I feel it is unfair thing for me to do to get in the way of brothers in the work, it would have been alright if it was ordered from Presbytery, And I would have agreed to that. But the way it is, I can not very well answer you for Angoon this year. As far as the work is concern, I am willing to be stationed any place provided my salary enough to cover my winter expenses. I think I have already told you at Presbytery." You will recall that Mr. Johnson said he could not serve as a layworker for less than \$75 a month.

Mr. Wanamaker told me twice this summer that he will serve no where other than at Angoon this coming winter, that if he is not appointed to serve as missionary at Angoon he will rent a house and remain there.

Another situation for prayer is Hydaburg. As I wrote you earlier, the Elders have declared themselves as desiring that Rev. S. G. Davis be their pastor the coming year. The Elders wrote me that they will raise \$5 a month for Mr. Davis. I have hopes that they'll raise more than that. So far I do not have a definite statement from Mr. Davis that he will serve the field.

I told Gibson Young that the Hydaburg Church wishes Rev. S.G.Davis the coming year, and that as things stand now he would not be appointed to serve Hydaburg this year. I told him that I do not know where he may be appointed.

It seems to me that Kasaan has too few people for our N.M.Committee to recommend stationing a layworker in that community, only about 40 in all, and the public school has been closed due to too few children. That field can be adequately ministered to by the Princeton. Personally I believe that no layworker can make ends meet while serving Klukwan on the basis of even the hoped for \$60 a month from the Board.

It appears to me that as a Presbytery we should locate a good layworker at Petersburg. Swanson should not be in Petersburg more than every fourth Sunday when he could supervise and assist the layworker. When I spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Swanson of a possibility of Gibson Young being appointed to serve at Petersburg, Mrs. Swanson spoke right up that she did not think much of the idea of having Gibson there, that she would

Sept 5/38

not care to preach for him as Mr. Davis has had to at Hydaburg. Verne said that Gibson took advantage of every opportunity to be away from the field and that he called on Davis to preach often. Furthermore they both commented on Gibson's lack of interest in the Sunday School.

Mr. and Mrs. Swanson's comments on Gibson Young and Andrew Wanamaker did distress me for I had hoped that both of them were doing more than their reports indicated. It seems that neither has grasped the realization of the importance of work with the children.

Brigadier Carruthers told me today that he is placing new workers at Petersburg. The Salvation Army Lassies are to be replaced by a man and wife, experienced and capable leaders from British Columbia. They are in Wrangell now.

About a year ago, I wrote to the N. M. Committee Chairman recommending that fire extinguishers be placed in all Board owned properties. The recommendation was left for Presbytery and in the midst of so many important considerations was not presented. I spoke to Swanson about that subject, and his comment was that he did not want any for the Petersburg Church. He thinks that the old building would be better gone. It is a white elephant as far as repairs and heating and so forth are concerned. How badly it needs to be painted. That rough siding would soak up too much paint.

Dr. Somerndike wrote last spring that we would be fortunate if we did not have to reduce rather than expand. So far I have not heard from him as to the exact budget which is available for the Alaska Presbytery for the coming year. Perhaps that information will be along soon.

We have received none of the blanks for "Application for Aid" such as the Board sent out in former years.

Swanson told me that he expects to take about three weeks off as soon as he completes the student trips to Sheldon Jackson School. He wishes to get his house in shape for winter. He will spend the time at Petersburg.

Will be glad to have your counsel and recommendations on the above items at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

September 7th, 1938

Rev. Russell P. Pederson
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter of August 12th. In the same mail I find a letter from Mr. Webster. He indicates a desire to be placed in charge of the native church at Juneau. The Board would very definitely be opposed to this, because we feel that native leadership for the native church at Juneau is absolutely necessary if we are going to have peace in that quarter, and that it is also for the best interest of the native work in that city. We are not thinking of the native church in Juneau merely in terms of the local constituency, but as a center which can radiate an influence which can be helpful in superintending our native work throughout the entire territory.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am writing to Mr. Webster today in which I have proposed that after he completes the new church building at Sitka two years hence, we would consider appointing him under the title of "Presbyterian Evangelist" to do the type of work which we proposed to you and which you have declined. I hope that you will approve what I have written.

I hope to inform you soon of our selection of a man for the Klawock and Craig field.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JME :FDS

Sept.
7th
1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I have your letter of August 26th, and in today's mail I received a copy of the plans for the new native church building in Juneau. I think you were right in insisting that the new building be built of frame with asbestos siding instead of stucco. I have not yet received the specifications. When they arrive I will look over them very carefully. I hope that along with the specifications Mr. Troast has given an estimate of the cost or has submitted a contract. I shall keep in mind your suggestions with reference to the shingles.

It is very important that the cost of this project should not exceed \$14,000, including the heating plant and furnishings. We must insist upon this, for I am sure that the Board will not make any additional amount available.

I am heartily in sympathy with your suggestions that we omit the thought of building a new manse at the present time, retaining the present manse for the use of Mr. Waggoner and for his successor.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BB

NATIONAL MISSIONS
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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 13, 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

This afternoon Elder Robert Peratrovich of Klawock came to call on me, and his earnest wish is to know when the new missionary is coming to serve Klawock and Craig. He said that the Session of the church had requested him to see me about the matter.

I told Mr. Peratrovich that you had had a very good man but that he had accepted another place, and that he could inform the Klawock Church that you have them in mind and are doing your utmost to find the man and wife which will fit and remain.

Mr. Peratrovich told me that they had had a communication from Mr. Kaiper in which he told them that a field worker with headquarters at Craig would be doing some missionary work at Klawock, etc.

I told Mr. Peratrovich to please tell the Klawock Session that Mr. Kaiper knows absolutely nothing about the plans of Presbytery or of the Board of National Missions for the Klawock-Craig field, that they should not worry at all about anything Mr. Kaiper might write.

I promised Mr. Peratrovich that I would send you an airmail letter tonight urging you to secure missionaries for that field as soon as you possibly can.

From now on our mail service is less frequent. We received mail last night, and the next mail boat northbound comes a week later.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
September 15th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike: NARRATIVE REPORT

We have enjoyed a busy month. Due to the Scarlet fever epidemic earlier in the summer we put off the Vacation Bible School until August, the attendance was an average of 27 the first week and 29 the second. The young people had more zest than usual and accomplished much in the memorizing of Scripture. We made a study of the Gospel of Matthew for the Bible instruction. With the direction of a former school teacher a number of Scripture Text calendar pictures were mounted on stained and varnished ply boards. This handwork is appreciated by the parents for they prove a real addition to the home. Since we had the school during the salmon canning season, the attendance was largely white children. Am enclosing a snap shot.

The morning of August 30th I started out with Mr. Swanson on the M/s Princeton for a visit to the fields and with workers in the north end of our Presbytery. We gathered up some children for Haines House and took some graduates from Haines House to Sheldon Jackson School. We had a pleasant early morning visit with Rev. and Mrs. E.E. Knudsen. Mr. Knudsen has built a nice sized shop in which he expects to do woodworking with his boys' group. The interior of the church gave evidence of increased activity. Repairs to the exterior were under way. All along the way we saw community and church improvements for which we are thankful. The contacts made this trip will prove helpful in the N. M. Committee work during the coming fall and winter.

[We are working out the program for activities in Wrangell and out at Wrangell Institute. Wrangell has more children in school than last year so we feel we must have more in our church classes. Wrangell Institute has changed admittance requirements so they are taking only those who have completed 8th grade work. That means we'll have a more challenging group for our classes this winter. We hope that we may start our classes next week. So far we have been able to do pastoral visitation and get acquainted.

We have been wishing that the Bibles and New Testaments which we requested for use in our Institute work would come along. Mail is slow these days on account of fewer steamers making the Alaska run.

Sincerely,

Harold Fredson

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Box 275
Wrangell
September 16th 1938

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letters of the 7th and 9th came this afternoon.

Am thankful to read that you hope to inform us^{soon} of your selection of a man for the Klawock and Craig field. Elder R. J. Peratrovich came to me again this afternoon pleading that we get some action soon. I told him that I had word from you today and that the man would be along soon.

Mr. Peratrovich says that eleven of the Presbyterian members have united with the Roman Catholic Church, and that the people are getting discouraged. Someone is endeavoring to get the group as a body to turn to the Roman Catholic Church.

Evidently Mr. Swanson can do little good with his visits to Klawock. They have several points against him. They state that when he comes to town he gives his first attention to the school teachers and very little attention to the Church Elders. Mr. Peratrovich who is a groceryman and general merchant objects to Mr. Swanson selling groceries at wholesale to the ministers. He complains that he spends more time on the boat than up among the people.

Mr. Swanson has been getting some wholesale orders and selling some milk, flour and canned goods to the ministers at the wholesale price. Several of us have bought through him. I am afraid that it is a mistake, though we certainly can use the saving which he has afforded. As for the Pedersons we have bought the bulk of our groceries from local merchants, and we believe that we must patronize the local stores. It is a temptation to make the dollars go farther. The Commanding Officer of the Salvation Army asked me the other day how Mr. Swanson is doing with his groceries. He said that his Petersburg officers had told him Swanson was receiving some large shipments and that he was helping some of the missions. Evidently the Army officers are broadcasting this. I regret to have to request Mr. Swanson to discontinue what he has meant as a "good turn" for several workers, but it seems necessary. Do you think he should be ordered to cease buying and transporting groceries for the missionaries in the outlying places where they can purchase but at a higher price?

Your letter to Mr. Webster certainly has my approval. Yet, I feel that two years is a long time to wait for him to begin service on the Princeton. I wish we could get someone on the Princeton this fall. I believe that you realize the urgency of the need.

You have asked Mr. Webster to elucidate his statement, "I think if we are to do anything for Gibson Young, it should be done at once."

Dr. Somerndike, I think that one of Mr. Webster's mistakes was pushing Gibson Young toward missionary service in the first place. Gibson has had trouble for years with his eyes, and that trouble is likely to be more of a problem, and the next thing will be pensioning a man who has given little real service. Wm L. Paul who is a good friend of the father of Gibson Young told me not so long ago that he thinks that Gibson's mentality is not all it should be. I have sometimes wondered whether or not that is so.

It seems to me that we are going to have to face an actuality with Gibson Young. He should be turned from his career as a commissioned missionary worker. Not only his lack of preparation, but his character has made him undesirable to Craig, Hydaburg and some other places. He was not wise with his marriage. These are all touchy matters.

The only place I know of where Gibson would be accepted is at Klukwan, and I doubt the wisdom of sending him up there.

My suggestion is to delay instead of rush into sending him to school.

With best wishes for you in all your work, and prayer that God may bless and guide you all the while.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Rederson

Mr. Swogger wrote me this week as follows about Gibson Young, "About Gibson Young, If he cannot go back to Hydaburg, Kasaan is too small, Petersburg won't have him, then there is one of two things left as I see the situation; send him to Klukwan on the understanding that he is to keep out of debt, or to -----! If it is true what Verne said, that he shunts the work on another when he can, and will not push the Sunday School, I feel we can't use him. I don't feel the Board should furnish meal tickets for lame ducklings. I don't want to seem harsh, but at least an honest effort should be given for salary paid.."

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BOX 1421, JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 275
Wrangell
Sept 16th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

It just dawned on me that I should write a letter on the subject of checks for the layworkers.

George Betts who has been appointed to serve at Kake is the only layworker who has been directed to a field. He should have his check for October, regular time.

The National Missions Committee has not decided as to which layworker to have commissioned to Angoon for this year. Mr. Wanamaker wants the appointment and is almost insisting that he be appointed, but the Committee is not ready to recommend him. It is likely that Samuel G. Johnson will be appointed or rather recommended to you, and that Mr. Wanamaker will not have an appointment this winter.

So far the Hydaburg situation has not been arranged. I asked Mr. Webster as a Committee member to see Mr. Davis before we made any commitment.

As I wrote you before, Gibson Young has not been recommended so far.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson
Russell F. Pederson

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Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
Sept 22nd 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Enclosed you will find the reports of Mr. Knudsen,
Mr. Swogger and Mr. Swanson.

Rev. A. D. Swogger has written me that there is so
much yet to be done on his new manse that they will not be able
to move in by October 1st. Therefore he will have to ask for
October rent at least.

You will have noted on Mr. Swanson's report about
his visit to Klawock and Craig, the 21st of August, "Not a soul
came to two services in spite of about 100 personal invitations."

You have read my letter of September 16th. It will
help explain. From various sources I hear that the Klawock people
are provoked at Mr. Swanson.

Recently Mr. Swanson spoke to me about trying to get
the helper's salary raised from \$50 to \$60 a month. If we are to
continue the operation of the Princeton with Swanson and a helper
as the crew, that salary should be raised. But my prayer is that
you may be able to locate a missionary minded, Presbyterian
grounded, minister to work on the Princeton along spiritual and
educational lines. That worker is needed this fall. A good
minister can head up that work. It is my expectation that about
the time Mr. Swanson is due to go to Assembly he will be asking
for a field so that he may get off the Princeton. The new minister
would be well enough acquainted by that time so he could get along
nicely even with a man green to the navigation in these waters.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that other sects
are preying on our people. The Roman Catholics are making fine
headway, especially in Klawock where the field is being left
open for this long time. The 7th Day Adventists are very active
right now. We are seeing their work in Wrangell. They are placing
attractive tracts and papers in every home in Wrangell once a week
and are giving illustrated lectures each Friday. Besides the
~~man and~~ man and wife in residence as Adventist missionaries, they
have a woman selling Bibles, question and answer books, children's
books with adventist teachings, etc., from house to house. After
covering every home in Wrangell she moved on to another town. The
Pentacostal group now has four workers working in Wrangell. You
can readily see why Mrs. Pederson and I feel we must be on the job
every day with faithful effort.

Dr. Somerndike, We wish that the Board of National
Missions could arrange for us to have some moving pictures for use
through the Presbytery. Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Sept.
23rd
1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson,
Box 275,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Your recent letters of September 15th and 18th were received after Dr. Somerndike had left the office to fill a number of synod engagements, and we are obliged to hold them for his attention upon his return the latter part of October. We regret this delay, but we are sure that immediately upon his return Dr. Somerndike will get in touch with you regarding the various matters about which you have written.

We shall see that George Betts receives his salary check for October at the time the checks of the other Alaska missionaries are mailed, and we shall await further word from you regarding the appointment of the other native workers.

Dr. Somerndike has been corresponding with several young men with reference to the Craig and Klawock field, and we feel sure that upon his return he will have a candidate for this field to present to your Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

BH Secretary to Dr. Somerndike.

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Seattle, Wash.
Sept. 25, 1938.

Dear Doctor Somerndike:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your telegram. I am truly sorry that you cannot see your way clear at the moment to support my returning to the west coast. I appreciate that you have done your duty and I laud you for it.

Mrs. Kaiper and I are sailing soon for the west coast. My heart is in Alaska and in the native work, and we are wanted by the natives as minister and wife. You've advised me not to go, so the blame is entirely upon my shoulders.

There was nothing wrong with our work in Alaska except that we loved it enough to do what we thought you would want us to do. Since you have not many friends in the Alaska Presbytery among the clergymen, the fact that I supported you was enough to seal my fate with the majority. Mr. Swanson, whom you have to depend upon so much, has never done anything but ridicule you to me. I had my first "run-in" with Mr. Swanson defending you. Mr. Bromley and Mr. Maggoner would sell you out for thirty pieces of silver. Mr. Webster, Christiansen, and Pederson support you but not so outspokenly as I do. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Swogger never buy a ticket until they find out which way the train goes. I do not know the new man at Skagway and I don't know what Mr. Glasse stands for.

We accidentally ran into Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen at Seattle. If he happens to visit you, I suggest that you check what I say with him. In the meantime, rest assured that I will not interfere with the Alaska work. Mrs. Kaiper and I know of your great interest in the Alaska field. Since we are of kindred spirit, I shall continue to be your staunch and loyal supporter. I like a straight-shooter, for I am the same kind of animal. Some day you will find what I have written herein is true. When that day arrives, and the sooner the better for the Alaskan work, I hope you will again enlist me under your banner.

Truly your friend,

DAN KAIPER

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Box 275
Wrangell
September 24th 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike:
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Your letter of the 15th enclosing the allocations list for Alaska Presbytery came this morning.

You state: "It will be entirely satisfactory to us if you wish to substitute Rev. S.G. Davis for Gibson Young at Hydaburg; but the appropriation of \$400 for that station cannot be increased."

Do you mean that that \$400 may be paid to Rev. S.G. Davis?

We understood that the Board could not pay Mr. Davis any salary as a missionary on account of his being retired and on the small pension.

Our N. M. Committee thought that Mr. Davis could be helped by giving him a job of painting the manse which sorely needs a couple of coats of paint.

Materials for the paint would amount to about \$50, and the labor should amount to between \$60 and \$70.

The budget allocations state that the layworkers are to be on a basis of \$50 a month from the Board. Some time ago you wrote that you would try to increase that amount to \$60 a month. I know that George Betts realized practically nothing from the fishing season. There are many fishermen who actually went in the hole this season. I can name men who went in the hole and they were not wasting their time nor anything else. Other good men netted but \$35 or \$36 for the season. This has been a hard season.

George Betts must have \$60 a month. If we dare to consider less than that, we will be driving him out of the service. The layworkers should have the \$75 a month which was recommended at the Spring meeting of Presbytery. In fact I fear that unless something is done to get George Betts the \$75 a month, he will be starved out of the Presbyterian missionary service, and George Betts is too valuable a man for that to happen. If George Betts quits, we have no other layworker who can do satisfactory service in Kake. Other churches are waiting for the Presbyterians to leave Kake without leadership. George was fearfully discouraged with the outlook financially as I talked with him this summer. I am not writing to George Betts about salary until I hear from you.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

*Dr. Davis
retired 10/23/30
receiving
automatic pension*

*George Betts
must have \$60 a month
if we dare to consider less than that
we will be driving him out of the service
The layworkers should have the \$75 a month
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Box 275
Wrangell
September 26, 1938

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Ave., New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

As I sign the monthly report of Rev. E. E. Bromley and forward his papers received tonight, I wish that I knew more about his activities. I wonder whether you might like to ask him to make a fuller and more detailed report.

He is an older man than I. He seems to think that I wish to be important. Therefore in the interests of harmony I would rather you would have your stenographer write him a letter, and request him to send you some of the following information. I would like to know the following to help me make recommendations at a later date. This is in the light of his narrative statement on Gustavus or Strawberry Point and the contemplated airplane base. I find that he reports but two pastoral calls on what required part of two days travel.

Suggested inquiries:

- ✓ 1. How many families are at Gustavus and what is the population of the district at the present time?
2. What ministry does Mr. Bromley give the people at Gustavus and vicinity? Winter ministry. Summer?
3. Has any other church any work there? (I have heard that the Pentacostal minister from Juneau has had some converts and has immersed some of them.)
4. Can the Hoonah minister with his mission boat minister to the Icy Straits district with the increased numbers?
5. What does Mr. Bromley recommend that the Presbyterian Church be ready to do to serve the increased population?

I have wondered why Mr. Bromley did not visit Gustavus more often than I have heard or read in his reports.

Please pardon my suggesting that you or your stenographer do this, but I feel that it is the wiser way to get the information out of Mr. Bromley. For me to go to Hoonah and Gustavus would require 28 hours steady running each way with the Princeton. I think he may make an effort to give you more information than he would me.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Pederson

Little Rock, Ark.
Sept. 28, 1938.

Rev. Russell Pedersen
Wrangell, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

I have a strange story to relate. I do not know whether you knew it or not, but when Mr. Kaiper left Klawock, he came directly to Arkansas where he has an uncle living. He asked me to help him to locate in a Church somewhere in Arkansas, or in that vicinity. I wrote several letters in his behalf, asking that in cases where there were any vacancies Mr. Kaiper be considered, and I gave him a good recommendation. My good friend, Dr. Geo. Arnold, the Executive for the Synod of Kansas, found a Church for Mr. Kaiper at Howard, Kansas. They extended a call to Mr. Kaiper, which he accepted. He shipped his goods to Howard, and proceeded with his wife to locate there. The next news I had concerning him was a letter written to me from Salt Lake City, in which he stated that he wanted to go back to Alaska so badly that without waiting to consult me or anyone, he and his wife had gotten in their car after staying only two days in Howard, and were on their way to Seattle, Wash., to take the boat for Klawock. He offered to resume his work at Klawock, or Craig, for the salary we pay to native workers. Of course, I could not reach him at Salt Lake City, so I sent him a wire, in care of Mr. Gould in Seattle, telling him under no circumstances to return to Alaska, and that neither your Committee nor the Board would approve his reassignment to that field. I am out on a field trip and I am in constant touch with my office. My secretary sent me a wire two days ago relaying a telegram which Mr. Kaiper had sent to the New York office after he reached Seattle, and after he had received my telegram telling him not to go to Alaska. His telegram stated that he had "a call from Klawock, and that he was planning to sail from Seattle on Tuesday, the 27th of Sept. I immediately wired Mr. Gould, telling him to stop Mr. Kaiper if at all possible and to say to him that neither the Board nor your Committee could approve of his reappointment to either Klawock or Craig, or both fields, and that the Board had already made other plans for those fields, having selected a man whose decision we are now awaiting.

I do not know whether Mr. Gould succeeded in stopping Mr. Kaiper from carrying out his impulsive purpose. He seems

to be in a state of mind that makes him utterly unreliable. A man in a normal state of mind does not accept a call from a Church and stay there two days, then pick up and go to Alaska without any authority from the Board or anyone else. I am really concerned about him, for I greatly fear that he has suffered a mental breakdown of some sort, which with his normally emotional and temperamental characteristics, causes him to do queer things.

Now if he has gone to Klawock and re-occupies the manse, your Presbytery's Committee which is responsible in behalf of the Presbytery for the appointment of men to different fields, will have to advise him that you cannot approve of his locating there. Since he has gone to Alaska without our authorization, he will have to pay his own expenses and we cannot give him any salary, unless of course your Committee feels after investigation that he is in a normal state of mind, that he can serve the field acceptably. I think the first step to take is for you with some other member of the Committee to go immediately to Klawock, and have a meeting with the congregation there to ascertain upon what authority they sent Mr. Kaiper "a call". Frankly, I doubt whether they did extend him a call, but it would be well for you to ascertain the facts about this. If Mr. Kaiper has arrived at Klawock, I think your Committee should have a frank conference with him, explaining to him that his course has been wholly irregular, and calling his attention to the embarrassment which your Committee experiences, as well as the Board, in view of the course he has pursued. If after such a conference *with* him, in the spirit of brotherly kindness, and if you feel that he is in a normal state of mind and that his only fault has been that of yielding to an impulsiveness of spirit, and a lack of common sense and sound judgment, I would be willing (on these grounds only) to resume the payment of his salary on the same basis as before for a period of six months, that is, until April 1, 1939, in order to give both him and us an opportunity to decide whether it is for the best interest of the work to allow him to continue in that field. If, on the contrary, he manifests the same spirit of pugnacity and antagonism toward the brethren of Alaska Presbytery, and toward the Board, which he expressed in rather violent language in a letter which he wrote to me just before he left Alaska last June, I would advise your Committee to tell

